



County of San Diego
Department of Environmental Health and Quality
Hazardous Materials Incident Team
Investigation Report



Record ID: DEH2024-HHIRT-006012

Jurisdiction:

Fire Agency:

Start Date:

End Date:

Sort Order: Record ID

View Mode: Public

RECORD INFORMATION:

HIRT RECORD: Fire at Gateway BESS 641 Camino De La Fuente

RECORD STATUS: Investigation Complete

ASSIGNED DATE: 05/15/2024

RELATED RECORD: Gateway Energy Storage

RECORD ID: DEH2024-HHIRT-006012

PRIORITY: High

CURRENT WORK TASK: SUPERVISOR REVIEW

RELATED RECORD ID: DEH2020-HUPFP-006742

COMPLAINANT/DISPATCHED BY:

This information in this grayed area has been blocked from public viewing to protect personally identifiable information and to prevent an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy per County Policy A-131 and Government Code section 7927.700, and/or to prevent disclosure of the identity of an informant per Government Code section 7927.705 and Evidence Code section 1041.

LOCATION DETAILS:

ADDRESS: 641 CAMINO DE LA FUENTE SAN DIEGO CA 92154

LOCATION DESCRIPTION: Building 3 of 5

X (MAP COORDINATE): 6358041.289

Y (MAP COORDINATE): 1788074.713

PARCEL DETAILS:

PARCEL OWNER: OTAY MESA BATTERY STORAGE LP

APN: 648-040-70-00

PARCEL OWNER ADDRESS: 641 CAMINO DE LA FUENTE SAN DIEGO CA 92154

PARCEL OWNER PHONE#:

PARCEL OWNER EMAIL:

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION:

COMMUNITY: San Diego THOMAS BROS MAP & GRID:

FIRE AGENCY: None

JURISDICTION: UNINCORPORATED

INCIDENT DETAILS:

DATE OF INCIDENT: 05/15/2024

INCIDENT TYPE: Lithium Battery

OPENED DATE: 05/15/2024

INITIAL DISPATCH

SCENE ARRIVAL

SCENE DEPARTURE

RETURN TO HQ

ADMIN TIME

TIME: 17:01

TIME: 17:45

TIME: 22:30

TIME: 23:00

TIME: 2

DATE: 05/15/2024

DATE: 05/15/2024

DATE: 05/15/2024

DATE: 05/15/2024

RESPONSE TIME: 0.73

TOTAL INCIDENT TIME: 7.98

FIELD TIME: 5.98

HIRT DESCRIPTION AND COMMENTS:

On 5/15/2024 about 5pm, HIRT received a call from CALFIRE about a potential fire in a Battery Energy Storage System. Workers nearby saw water running off (from the on-site fire suppression system) and they saw wafts of "smoke" coming from the top of building #3. The BESS is a 7 building set up with 5 buildings all attached by 4-hour fire walls (Buildings 1-5) and another 2 newer buildings set aside to themselves. The batteries inside are "prismic" and use lithium ion technology. CalOES Report # 24-2793 was made by the responsible party for 300 gallons per minute of fire fighting water flowing into the storm drain system. CUPA was notified of the possible fire. SDO issued a local evacuation warning and shelter-in-place warnings for the power plants and the nearby prison. Power was cut to the buildings. Sprinklers were supported by fire engines at the hydrant. Fire watch maintained by CalFIRE.

5/16/2024 - Air monitoring was conducted via robot and when the hazards were determined to be safe enough for personnel near the facility the roof and doors were opened manually to allow ventilation of potential flammable gases. Building was returned to the facility representative on the late afternoon of 5/16. Facility personnel will work with County Fire to determine when they'll reenergize the other unaffected buildings and restore sprinklers. Firefighting runoff water sampled by Patriot Environmental. CGI on robot readings at roll up door: 0% LEL, 0 ppm H2S, 0 ppm CO, 20.9% O2. pH at Dempsey Construction retention pond approximately 8.3

DEHQ will issue a notice to consider conducting a PHA to increase the safety aspects of these buildings to meet or exceed the current NFPA standards for lithium ion battery energy storage systems. No injuries or exposures.

Friday (05/17/24), Early morning, fire rekindled, upgraded to structure fire. HIRT conducted remote air monitoring at perimeter with Area Raes where fire fighters were stationed, no hazards observed. Firefighting runoff water results indicated no hazard.

Saturday (05/18/24), HIRT rehabed Area Raes and provided support to Cal Fire, At evening brief, AreaRae just in time training provided to CalFire for local monitoring with Area Raes.

Sunday (05/19/24), HIRT rehabed Area Raes and provided support to Cal Fire. AreaRae remote monitoring turned over to CalFire.

Monday (05/20/24), HIRT rehabed Area Raes and provided support to Cal Fire.

Tuesday (05/21/24), HIRT rehabed Area Raes and provided support to Cal Fire.

Wednesday (05/22/24), HIRT rehabed Area Raes and provided support to Cal Fire.

Thursday (05/23/24), HIRT rehabed Area Raes and provided support to Cal Fire.

Friday (05/24/24), Area Raes removed from operation. Air monitoring turned over to Gateway Energy.

Note: Area Raes monitoring for LEL, Oxygen, H2S, CO, VOC, HCN and Gamma Radiation.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS REQUIRED:**FWD TO AREA CUPA SUPERVISOR**

HMD HIRT ON SCENE: Yes	CAL-EMA#: 24-2793	PROP 65: Yes
SDFD HIRT ON SCENE: Yes	SUPERFUND#:	
CLEAN-UP CONTRACTOR:	MANIFEST#:	

INSPECTIONS:**RESPONDING AGENCIES:**

AGENCY	CONTACT	PHONE#	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
SDFD-HAZ	HM1		Kieran Moloney

HMD ON SCENE:

TOTAL HMD HOURS: 198.00

HMD STAFF	HOURS ON SCENE	ACTIVITY/COMMENT
Colon-Droz, Nolberto	33.6	5/17: 0.5 (Reg), 7.5 (OT) 5/18: 15.9 (OT) 5/19: 6.4 (OT) 5/20: 2.8 (OT) 5/21: 0.5 (OT) 5/17: 8 (reg) 3 (OT) 5/19: 6.5 (OT) 5/20: 8 (reg) 1.2 (OT)
Fay, George	49.7	5/21: 5 (reg) 5/22: 5 (reg) 5/23: 8 (reg) 5/24: 5 (reg)
Isip, Ronald		
Maschue, Manon	35.6	5/15: 5.5 (OT) 5/16: 8.4 (OT) 5/16: 6.7 (REG) 5/17: 2.0 (REG) Coded to HUPFP Permit for Gateway for the ON (DEH2020-HUPFP-006742) 5/18: 13.0 (OT)
Rosecrans, Scott		
Ruffner, Michael	26.5	5/15: 5.5 (OT) 5/16: 9 (OT) 5/18: 12 (OT) 5/16: 10.0 5/17: 7.3 5/18: 3 5/19: 3.5 5/20: 11.3 5/21: 7 5/22: 3 5/23: 4 (52.6 through 5/23 430pm)
Wirschem, Leon	52.6	

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS:

CHEMICAL NAME	# OF CONTAINERS	TOTAL AMOUNT	RELEASED?	AMT RELEASED	UNIT	HAZARD CLASS
lithium ion batteries			Yes			9 Misc. Hazardous Materials

EQUIPMENT COST RECOVERY:

COST RECOVERY: Yes

SUPPLY/ITEM	QUANTITY	COST PER UNIT	TOTAL ITEM COST
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TOTAL COST:

INCIDENT EXPOSURE REPORT:

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CONTACTS:

DOCUMENTS / ATTACHMENTS:

FILE NAME	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION
W01A00003353 DataLog_1719242238907.csv	
W01A00003355 DataLog_1719242061667.csv	
W01A00003356 DataLog_1719241104973.csv	
W01A00003358 DataLog_1719246471703.csv	
W01A00003354 DataLog_1719244236700.csv	
W01A00003357 DataLog_1719241865113.csv	

PERSON PREPARING REPORT: Maschue, Manon

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