

Yankee Stripper Removal Site

Rockport, ME



U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND

THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND REMOVAL PROGRAM responds to chemical, biological and radiological releases and large-scale national emergencies, including homeland security incidents. EPA conducts short term cleanups in the removal program when necessary to protect human health and the environment by either funding response actions directly or overseeing and enforcing actions conducted by potentially responsible parties.

BACKGROUND

Located at 407 West Street in Rockport, Maine, the Yankee Stripper Site consists of a one-story building situated on 0.64-acres. Various commercial furniture, stripping and refinishing businesses operated on the site from 1972 until August of 2025. The town took the property for back taxes in March 2025. Hazardous substances from those previous operations remain on the premises.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS

On February 9, 2026, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP) asked EPA to investigate the site. On May 6, 2026, EPA, joined by representatives from MEDEP and the town, conducted an environmental investigation. EPA collected samples from drums, process recovery tanks, and sludge and soil samples from under the recovery tanks and outside the building.



Photo: Yankee Stripper sign.

UPCOMING ACTIONS

On June 11, 2026, EPA authorized a Superfund cleanup to remove and dispose of hazardous substances including spent non-halogenated solvents, xylene and other materials. If high levels of hazardous substances are found under the furniture stripping process area, EPA may remove the soil to prevent contamination moving into the groundwater.

EPA plans to start work the week of July 13, 2026. The cleanup should take around three months. Expect to see heavy machinery and workers in protective clothing on-site for about two weeks. Air monitoring and other engineering controls will be in place during active work to monitor and reduce dust. Working hours will be approximately Monday-Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EPA will coordinate closely with the Town of Rockport and MEDEP throughout the cleanup.

KEY CONTACTS

JOHN MCKEOWN

EPA On-Scene Coordinator
(617) 918-1793

mckeown.john@epa.gov

AARON SHAHEEN

EPA Community
Involvement Coordinator
(617) 918-1071

shaheen.aaron@epa.gov

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1-888-EPA-7341

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