

Bexar County Office of Emergency Management

NEWS

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Chlorine Recovery Ongoing

Emergency Management officials are pleased to report the successful application of the metal patch to the damaged rail car which allowed the start of the chlorine removal process at the derailment site off of Nelson Road in San Antonio, TX.

The patch was attached successfully at approximately 5:00 AM this morning without chemical release to the air. Workers on the scene began the chlorine recovery at approximately 5:50 AM. The system is being carefully monitored to ensure safe removal.

“Now that the patch is on and the scrubbing process has begun, we expect the removal to take up to six days,” said Scott Harris, PhD, of the EPA. “We will continue to monitor the air throughout the operation and remain on the scene until all the chlorine is scrubbed and transported safely off-site.”

The TCEQ Strike Team is actively involved in supporting the operation, and coordination with UP.

Residents in the immediate area will not be allowed back into their homes until the transfer is complete and the area is declared safe. There are five homes which remain evacuated. EPA officials are inspecting the homes today to ensure they are clear of contamination.

Following conclusion of chlorine-related activities, TCEQ will continue to oversee corrective environmental activities at the site.

