

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region VI
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2009

From: Eric Delgado

Subject: Tire Fire - Hawkins, Texas

Hawkins Tire Fire

SE Corner of Hwy 80 and Hwy 14, Hawkins, TX

Latitude: 32.5826400

Longitude: -95.2012000

POLREP No.:	1	Site #:	
Reporting Period:		D.O. #:	
Start Date:	5/26/2009	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	5/26/2009	Response Type:	Emergency
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

On May 26th, 2009 at 00:47 hours, the Hawkins VFD and Hawkins Fire Marshalls Office responded to a tire fire at Foster & Son Scrap Tire Processor in Hawkins, Texas. A stockpile of approximately 100,000 tires burned to create a fire over an area of roughly 300 x 500 feet. The scene of the fire was a 5 acre area where Foster & Son staged an estimated 700,000 tires. The cause of the fire was undetermined at the time of initial action. Initial responders successfully contained the fire by moving staged tires to create a 200 foot open area buffer around the burning area.

The NRC activated EPA Region 6 Prevention and Response Branch at 0252 hours on May 26th, 2009. TCEQ, EPA, and the agencies' respective contractors arrived on scene between 0600 1000 hours. The Town of Hawkins issued a mandatory evacuation for all residents. Northwesterly winds at 8-10 mph allowed the smoke plume to rise several hundred feet before breaching the subject property perimeter. The plume was visible from roughly ten miles away between 0600 and 1100 hours. TCEQ, EPA, and Hawkins VFD entered into unified command at 0900.

Unified Commander Fire Marshall John Jones held an incident situational meeting at 0930 on 5/26/09.

Current Activities

Fire Monitoring: 24/7 monitoring of the fire by Hawkins and surrounding community VFDs and County and State Fire Marshalls' Offices.

Initial Air Monitoring: EPA and contractors conducting continuous air monitoring and data logging at established stations around the incident perimeter. R6 MCP currently on scene and serving as ICP. Plume models for multiple weather scenarios have been established. Eagle on scene. Initiating fire suppression activities for TCEQ: Mobilizing contractor Eagle for fire suppression. Local Eagle reps from Tyler on scene by 0930 hours.

Planned Removal Actions

TCEQ contractor Eagle scheduled to extinguish fire with separation and water suppression.

Next Steps

EPA preparing to establish multiple air monitoring and air sampling locations in order to determine the plume extent and its potential impact to residents in the area.

Key Issues

Air Monitoring for local residents, especially those affected by the plume. Weather conditions and changing winds monitored closely. Continued containment of the fire. Suppression of the fire.

