

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Monday, June 22, 2009

From: Robert Wise

To: Cliff Ruff, Councilman Dennis Zine's office Annette Starks, ATF
Robert Nelson, LAFD Robert Nelson, LAFD
Irma Pomposo, LA City Council Paul Terris, LAFD

Subject: Continuation of Removal and Destruction of Gun Powder
Ingomar Ammunition
19227 Ingomar Street, Reseda, CA
Latitude: 34.2125000
Longitude: -118.5522000

POLREP No.:	5	Site #:	TBD
Reporting Period:	06/11-22/2009	D.O. #:	022-9053
Start Date:	6/2/2009	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	6/1/2009	Response Type:	Emergency
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #	EP-W-07-022
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

See POLREP #1

Current Activities

June 11, 2009

Personnel: 1 OSC, 2 PST, 5 START (2 ERRG UXO), 1 ERRS RM

START continued the assessment of the property for chemicals, burned ammunition, gunpowder and any other explosive items. The assessment is being lead by START ERRG teaming subcontractor UXO personnel.

During the search of the barn for gunpowders, a stash of guns, practice land mines, an inert grenade and a large quantity of gunpowder was discovered. OSC Wise notified LAPD of the gun find and they dispatched a detective to take possession of the guns. When the detective arrived he observed the military munitions and contacted the bomb squad in accordance with LAPD protocol. The bomb squad looked at the grenade and the land mines. They determined the grenade to be inert, but it appeared that the land mine still had its practice charge in it. The bomb squad rendered the land mine safe by disrupting it with a steel slug. After the bomb squad turned the site back to EPA, the disposal of burned solid waste into a 40 cubic yard roll-off-bin supplied by the PRP commenced.

OSC Wise was notified by FBI and LAPD bomb squads that the powders would be destroyed on-site next week.

June 12-15, 2009: No work on-site.

June 16, 2009

Personnel: 1 OSC, 3 START (1 UXO), 3 PST, 8 ERRS (1 Response Manager, 1 Field Clerk, 2 T&D Coordinators, 3 laborers, 1 Foreman)

The City of Los Angeles supplied two solid waste bins. ERRS continued to clean the burn area of large debris. One of the solid waste bins was for scrap metal and the other for solid waste. The START conducted a HAZCAT of the remaining containers found in the debris pile.

The PRP (tenant) was indicted by the U.S. Attorneys Office on three counts of illegal storage of hazardous waste and one count of knowing endangerment in the storage of that hazardous waste.

June 17, 2009

Personnel: 1 OSC, 3 START (1 UXO), 3 PST, 8 ERRS (1 Response Manager, 1 Field Clerk, 2 T&D Coordinators, 3 laborers, 1 Foreman)

OSC Wise contacted Weatherby Ammunition and Hodgdon Powders to determine the viability of those type of materials that been through a fire. Both companies stated that those materials would no longer be viable for their intended use. The PRP contacted EPA by getting up to 100 pounds of gunpowder which he stated he could transport legally. After talking to a Motor Carrier Specialist with the California Highway Patrol, OSC Wise informed the PRP that he could not transport and would need to get a commercial shipper. The PRP notified me via e-mail that they were no longer seeking the powder.

ERRS continued the sifting operations. PST, START UXO and the OSC sorted live ammunition in conex No. 5. During the sorting process, OSC Wise discovered 8 20 mm M246 High Explosive-Tracer rounds with the self destructing fuze. One of the rounds was demilled and was examined by the START UXO personnel, who determined that the fuze appeared to be intact. OSC Wise, notified the LAPD who called the bomb squad. The bomb squad took control of the site and determined that the fuzes were probably live and confiscated the ammo for destruction by the military.

June 18, 2009

Personnel: 1 OSC, 3 START (1 UXO), 3 PST, 8 ERRS (1 Response Manager, 1 Field Clerk, 1 T&D Coordinators, 3 laborers, 1 Foreman)

The START conducted an XRF study of the site in anticipation of the excavation of contaminated soil.

ERRS continued the sifting operations. In anticipation of the powder burn, one final search for gun powder was conducted on-site. During the search, a large stash of guns and a 90 mm artillery round was found in the garden sheds, additional powder and a box of rifle propelled grenades (WWII vintage) were discovered. OSC Wise notified LAPD who called the bomb squad. The bomb squad took control of the site and determined that all of the munitions were inert. LAPD took the guns.

June 19, 2009

Personnel: 1 OSC, 3 START (1 UXO), 3 PST, 8 ERRS (1 Response Manager, 1 Field Clerk, 1 T&D Coordinators, 3 laborers, 1 Foreman), 2 FBI and 1 LAPD

The site was prepped for the powder burn. All fire impinged ammunition was drummed up. The conex with the primers was closed. All chemicals were moved into the storage area.

At 0900 hours representatives for the U.S. Attorneys Office (USAO), EPA CID, FBI, National Guard Civil Support Team (CST), LAFD and Los Angeles City Attorney's Office (LACAO) were on-site for a site tour.

At 1000 hours a safety briefing for the powder burn was held. Participating entities included FBI, LAPD, EPA, START, ERRS, PST, LAFD, USAO and CID. The powder burn was handled by FBI and LAPD bomb technicians. The powder was sorted into two classes: transportable and non-transportable. The non-transportable was burned and the transportable will be brought to FBI's magazine for future destruction. The destruction was conducted in a concrete horse trough on-site. LAFD provided fire suppression support during the burn. Approximately 300 pounds of black powder, smokeless gun powder and flash powder were destroyed in the burn. During the destruction of powder soaking in motor oil (motor oil placed on material by START UXO because it was recovered from conex box no. 4 in loose form to inert material) some of the material popped out of the trough and got onto the ground causing the ground to catch on fire. The flame ran up to two 5-gallon buckets of firing range waste which then caught on fire. LAFD put the fire out. The containers of firing range waste were placed in a 35 gallon drum by LAFD. Several of the burns also caught the up canopy of the trees on fire, which was put out by LAFD. After the burn was over, the entire site was soaked down with water by LAFD.

June 20, 2009

Personnel: 1 OSC, 3 START (1 UXO), 3 PST, 8 ERRS (1 Response Manager, 1 Field Clerk, Coordinators, 3 laborers, 1 Foreman)

ERRS continued to sift the debris for live rounds. The PST and ERRS continued to bulk fire impacted debris. The START resampled several drums on-site for laboratory analysis, sampled the soil beneath the chlorinated solvent drums and conducted an inventory of plating waste discovered during the bulking of the debris by OSC Wise. The plating waste was labeled as cyanide and had the plating shop name on it.

Planned Removal Actions

1. Live ammunition sorting
2. Packaging of melted plastic mixed with ammo.
3. Loading of bins with fire impacted debris.
4. Destruction of the ammunition
5. Excavation of contaminated soil
6. Disposal of all hazardous substances

Next Steps

It is anticipated that the sorting of the burned area outside the conex boxes will be completed by June 23, 2009. Once that is completed, the debris in the conex boxes will be sorted for live ammunition.

Key Issues

1. Disposal of the ammunition
2. Status of the rest of the site.

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