

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Ocean Shores Orphan Cylinder - Removal Polrep
Initial and Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region X

Subject: POLREP #1
Ocean Shores Orphan Cylinder
10JBRV00
Ocean Shores, WA
Latitude: 46.9804771 Longitude: -124.1536297

To: Chris Field, EPA Region 10 (POLREP List)
Dan Opalski, EPA Region 10 (POLREP List)

From: Angelica Lopez Mercado, OSC

Date: 4/9/2010

Reporting Period:

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:
Response Authority: CERCLA	Response Type: Emergency
Response Lead: EPA	Incident Category: Removal Action
NPL Status: Non NPL	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date: 4/8/2010	Start Date: 4/8/2010
Demob Date: 4/8/2010	Completion Date: 4/8/2010
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification:
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response

1.1.2 Site Description

Orphan cylinder of an unknown gas was found on the beach near Ocean Shores, Washington, by police personnel. The Fire Department took the cylinder to an Ocean Shores municipal shop facility at 165 Ocean Lake Way. The cylinder was encrusted with marine invertebrates and heavily corroded, obscuring all markings and colorations. Even more, it had a slight hissing noise indicating escaping gas.

1.1.2.1 Location

165 Ocean Lake Way SW Ocean Shores, Washington 98569-9318

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat.

The cylinder was approximately 4.5 feet long and of a diameter that is commonly referred to as a "100 lb" cylinder. There were no visible markings on the cylinder so it could possibly contain chlorine, ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, cyanide, carbon monoxide, explosive gas, or oxygen, or any other content that is usually stored in a cylinder. Due to the heavy corrosion and rusting of the cylinder, it was deemed a substantial threat of release to the environment.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

N/A

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

Early on the morning of April 8, 2010, a gas cylinder was discovered floating near the beaches of Ocean Shores, Washington. Ocean Shores police took the cylinder to an Ocean Shores municipal shop facility at 165 Ocean Lake Way. Ocean Shores Fire Department contacted the Department of Ecology for assistance in disposing of the cylinder. Late on the morning of April 8th, the Washington Department of Ecology requested the assistance of the US EPA in depressurization and disposal of the cylinder. The Department of Ecology provided a preliminary photograph of the cylinder.

Prior to departure, the Department of Ecology photograph was sent to the Air Gas Emergency Hotline, and the hotline representative there suggested that the design of the protective cap was indicative of a European origin for the tank. AirGas could not speculate on the contents of the cylinder.

US EPA mobilized to the site and inspected the cylinder. The cylinder was approximately 4.5 feet in length, and of a size commonly referred to as a 100 lb. cylinder. An unusual feature of the cylinder, as noted above, was a protective cap that did not completely cover the protective valve, but only partially shrouded the valving at the top of the cylinder. The cylinder was encrusted with marine invertebrates and heavily corroded, obscuring all markings and colorations. While manipulating the tank, both the movement of liquid in the cylinder and also a slight hissing of gas escaping could be heard. Attempts to identify the gas using chlorine, ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, cyanide, carbon monoxide, explosive gas, oxygen, and hydrocarbon sensors were unsuccessful. At this time it was strongly suspected that the original cylinder contents had leaked out, and that the cylinder contents were now seawater and atmospheric constituents. The hissing heard was believed to be the cylinder's attempt to relieve pressure caused by the warming associated with movement from an oceanic to a terrestrial environment.

Nevertheless, in order to insure that the contents of the cylinder were benign, START contractors in Level B PPE took the cylinder to a remote location of the facility and attempted to vent some contents for monitoring. Attempts to open the valving were inhibited by the encrustations upon the fittings, and it was difficult to establish that the cylinder was open to the environment. Therefore START removed the pressure relief fittings on the valving. When this was performed, a short, mild relief of pressure was noted, with no readings above background observed while monitoring with all of the above sensors. A black, watery liquid was then drained from the cylinder.

The liquid from the cylinder was positive for a WATESMO water test, with a pH of 5, which was further evidence that the original contents of the cylinder had vented previously, and that the cylinder posed little hazard. In consultation with the fire department, the cylinder was placed on a scrap pile to await recycling.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date
4/08/2010

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)
N/A

2.1.4 Progress Metrics
N/A

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities
N/A

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities
NA

2.2.1.2 Next Steps
N/A

2.2.2 Issues
N/A

2.3 Logistics Section
N/A

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer
Jeffrey Fowlow (OSC).

2.6 Liaison Officer

N/A

2.7 Information Officer

2.7.1 Public Information Officer

N/A

2.7.2 Community Involvement Coordinator

N/A

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

Fire Department.

4. Personnel On Site

Jeffrey Fowlow (OSC), Angie Lopez-Mercado (OSC), and two START.

5. Definition of Terms

START.

PPE

OSC

WATESMO

6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.