

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Margate Mercury Release - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IV

Subject: **POLREP #6**
Final POLREP
Margate Mercury Release
B4C2
Margate, FL
Latitude: 26.2351389 Longitude: -80.2305556

To:
From: Alyssa Hughes, FOSC
Date: 11/16/2010
Reporting Period:

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	B4C2	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:	9/1/2010	Start Date: 9/1/2010
Demob Date:		Completion Date: 9/30/2010
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:		State Notification:
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response

1.1.2 Site Description

The owner of a property located 3 2-ounce bottles of mercury in a closet in the garage. The mercury reportedly belonged to the previous owner. He opened one of the bottles and spilled the contents onto the driveway. Some neighborhood children walked by and saw the mercury and started to play with it. The owner gave the children one of the bottles. The material was then carried into 4 other houses. Two additional properties were impacted at outside locations only.

1.1.2.1 Location

The residential area is located on flat ground in Margate, Broward County, FL. Margate is located just north of Fort Lauderdale, FL, approximately 40 miles from Miami.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The material known on site is elemental mercury which is a CERCLA hazardous substance. At approximately 70 degrees F it becomes a vapor which can travel through small openings to surrounding apartments and the environment. In its elemental form it may also be tracked on shoes and clothing.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

FDEP Emergency Responder Steve Threet arrived on site on Tuesday, August 31 in order to perform an assessment of potentially impacted areas. FDEP responder reported his findings from the screening of 5 schools, 1 public library, 10 public vehicles, 9 houses and 5 school buses. The screenings in the schools, buses, and library were all well below EPA removal action levels (1,000 ng/m³). The values ranged from 0 to 87 ng/m³. Three of the residential properties exhibited levels of mercury vapor exceeding EPA's Removal Action Level, these residents were temporarily relocated with assistance from the Red Cross.

FDEP response personnel contacted EPA Region 4 Duty Officer to ask for assistance in conducting the

clean-up operations at the three residential properties.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

On 8/28/2010, a resident of Margate, FL, provided bottles of elemental mercury to several neighborhood children to play with. The children reportedly "squirited" each other with the mercury and dropped much of it on the ground outside of the residence; at least one partially filled bottle was reportedly dropped into the nearby canal. Weekend rains washed much of the outdoor mercury off the source location property, but several beads remain visible across the driveway and lawn. Later, the parents of the children discovered what had happened and one or more were taken to the hospital for screening. The local PD and FD responded on 8/30/2010.

EPA TEL coordinated with FLDEP and local PD on 8/30/2010 (FD and Hazmat demobilized by late evening); local responders requested assistance from EPA, having no resources to conduct or oversee cleanup activities, however, FLDEP took the lead on 8/31/2010 and performed an assessment of the affected locations with a mercury vapor analyzer.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

ERRS Contractor WRS arranged for the transportation and disposal of the waste generated during response actions. Two 20 yard rolloffs and two 55-gallon drums were disposed of as hazardous waste at CERCLA approved disposal facilities. The roll-offs were transported to Clean Harbors of Florida and the two 55-gallon drums were sent to Perma-fix of South Georgia.

Following the removal of the waste from the Site, all remaining storage containers were removed. All response activities were completed.

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

The mercury was found by the home owner at 7871 NW 3rd. He reportedly found the mercury in a closet that was left on-site from the previous owner. He stated that he didn't understand the dangers of mercury and that's the why he let the children handle the material. The Margate Police Department and FDEP CID are conducting an independent investigation.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Manifest #	Treatment	Disposal
Mercury Containing Waste	Solid	2-20 yd rolloffs	000668815/6		Clean Harbors (Bartow)
Mercury (PPE/debris, wash water/elemental)	solid/liquid	2-55 gall drums	006898955		Perma-Fix of S. GA(Valdosta)
Non Haz Debris	solid	1-20 yd rolloff	N/A		

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

START will complete full scan assessments of potentially impacted properties
Address gross contamination outside
Remove contaminated items exceeding 10,000 ng/m³ from within the homes
Employ mitigation techniques to reduce the level of mercury vapors within the homes
Provide clearance sampling of properties following sufficient mitigation

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

All response actions are complete.

2.2.2 Issues

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

ERRS and START contractors are responsible for their respective health and safety plans. Each contractor has a HASP and it has been reviewed by the OSC.

2.6 Liaison Officer

Captain Jeff Gary with the City of Margate Fire Rescue is serving as the liaison officer.

Officer Tom McNally will serve as the City of Margate Police Department liaison.

2.7 Information Officer

2.7.1 Public Information Officer

No PIO was provided for this response.

2.7.2 Community Involvement Coordinator

Two of the families are being provided with lodging assistance. CIC will be assisting with reimbursement of personal items from Regional office.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

EPA

FDEP

City of Margate Fire Rescue

City of Margate Police Department

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

Broward County School Board

Broward County Health Department

Florida Department of Health

ATSDR

4. Personnel On Site

EPA - 1

FDEP - 1

START - 3

ERRS - 6

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

N/A

6.2 Reporting Schedule

Daily for previous day's operational period

7. Situational Reference Materials

EPA Mercury Website - Spills, Disposal and Site Cleanup including the Mercury Response Guidebook

www.epa.gov/mercury/spills/index.htm

ATSDR - Metallic Mercury FAQs <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/mercmetal5.html>

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/MercMetallic05.pdf>

NIOSH- Safety and Health Topic: Mercury

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/mercury/>

OSHA – Mercury Vapors <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/healthguidelines/mercuryvapor/index.html>

ACGIH - Threshold Limit Values (TLVs®) and Biological Exposure Indices (BEIs®)

<http://www.acgih.org/TLV/>

CDC- Elemental Mercury Releases Attributed to Antiques

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5623a2.htm?s_cid=mm5623a2_e