

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
MILLARD REFRIGERATED NH3 RELEASE - Removal Polrep
Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IV

Subject: POLREP #3
FINAL
MILLARD REFRIGERATED NH3 RELEASE

Theodore, AL
Latitude: 30.5316790 Longitude: -88.1030570

To:
From: Dean Ullock, On Scene Coordinator
Date: 11/23/2010
Reporting Period:

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	B4B9	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	PRP Oversight
Response Lead:	USCG	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	8/23/2010	Start Date:	8/23/2010
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	11/7/2010
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response

1.1.2 Site Description

At approximately 0910 CDT on 8/23/2010, a reported and estimated 250 to 600 gallons of ammonia was released from the Millard Refrigerated facility. The vapor plume escaped the facility and was confirmed at other local facilities located across the Theodore Ship Channel near the mouth of the channel that leads to Mobile Bay. USCG GST (PO HAWES) and EPAOSC Ullock initially responded to the Millard facility to provide technical assistance, oversight, air monitoring, to the SECTOR MOBILE USCG-FOSC-R. Approximately 104 persons sought medical attention and/or were hospitalized, including 5 in ICU. Approximately 65 persons affected by the ammonia cloud were BP-related contractors associated with the DWH oil spill. The Fire Department cleared the scene late Monday afternoon/early evening.

1.1.2.1 Location

7730 Deer River Road, Theodore, Mobile County, Mobile, Alabama 36582

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The refrigeration facility had been evacuated and several reports had been filed of off-site impacts where people experienced difficulty breathing as the vapor plume of ammonia traveled southeastward towards the mouth of the Theodore Ship Channel, over the Resolve marine facility (aka DWH Decon Staging Area) and

Ammonia has a NIOSH REL TWA of 25 ppm (18 mg/m³), an OSHA PEL TWA of 50 ppm (35 mg/m³), and an IDLH of 300 ppm. Exposure to high levels of ammonia in air may be irritating to skin, eyes, throat, and lungs and cause coughing and burns. Lung damage and death may occur after exposure to very high concentrations of ammonia. Some people with asthma may be more sensitive to breathing ammonia than others. Swallowing concentrated solutions of ammonia can cause burns in mouth, throat, and stomach. Splashing ammonia into eyes can cause burns and even blindness.

2. Current Activities

2.1.1 Narrative

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

While these determinations were being made, Millard continued to diligently maintain an emergency response contractor (SRS) and air monitoring contractor (CTEH) on-scene.

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

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

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

NH3 contaminated poultry and cellulose packaging material and wooden pallets		8 Million lbs. of poultry	Special Waste	N/A	landfill

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Prepare poultry pallets and warehouse for disposal and prepare bids for T&D.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Continued with application of CO2 into freezer #5 to neutralize and stabilize NH3. Continue with comprehensive air monitoring of the Millard facility and the Resolve marine facility (DWH Vessel Decon) area.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

DISPOSAL

2.2.2 Issues

High Visibility given the close proximity of the DWH Vessel Decon operation.

2.3 Logistics Section

All logistics were arranged by the RP.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

Lt . Commander Kenneth Pounds of the USCG-GST was assigned as EPA OSC's lead Safety Officer.

2.6 Liaison Officer

DWH Unified Command Chief Petty Officer-Robert Cox was identified as the liaison officer between the DWH UC and this incident.

2.7 Information Officer

N/A

2.7.1 Public Information Officer

N/A

2.7.2 Community Involvement Coordinator

N/A

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

On the afternoon of 8/25/2010 at approximately 1700 hrs., EPA OSC Ullock assumed responsibility as lead-OSC. Under the NCP, US EPA is the lead Federal Agency for the duration of the response and continued to oversee all ongoing removal activities.

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

OSHA

USDA

ADEM

USCG-Sector Mobile

USCG-Gulf Strike Team

**CDC/ATSDR
Mobile County Dept. of Public Health
Chemical Safety Board**

4. Personnel On Site

1 ea. EPA OSC

1ea. START

5. Definition of Terms

N/A

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

A formal incident "Hotwash/Workshop is being coordinated and prepared with the effort of the USCG SECTOR MOBILE MER Section. A "draft" agenda will be developed and circulated around to the responding agencies for their ideas and inclusion. It is anticipated that this workshop will take place in January or February 2011.

Please refer to the EPAOSC.net website for more information related to this incident as it solely relates to the emergency response phase and activities.

*****Investigative Reports conducted and prepared by other State, local or Federal Agencies must be obtained through FOIA or through the respective agency***.**

6.2 Reporting Schedule

TBD

7. Situational Reference Materials

N/A