

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Braswell Place Mercury Spill - Removal Polrep
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IV

Subject: POLREP #1
Initial
Braswell Place Mercury Spill
B4G2
Lenoir, NC
Latitude: 35.8848630 Longitude: -81.6823010

To: Matt Taylor, USEPA R4 ERRB
Steve Lewis, NC DENR

From: Rick Jardine

Date: 3/7/2011

Reporting Period: 03/06/2011 to 03/07/2011

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	B4G2	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:	3/6/2011	Start Date:	
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category: Emergency Removal Action

1.1.2 Site Description: Detached single family residence.

1.1.2.1 Location: 1934 Braswell Place, Lenoir, NC

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat: Toxicity by inhalation, ingestion.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results: Visible mercury discovered in a glass container. Large (quarter-sized) beads and numerous smaller beads observed in kitchen where mercury was released by owner's family members. The glass container was flask-shaped and was allegedly corked. The home owner is alleged to have had possession of the mercury since his gold processing days. EPA has yet to determine the time frame for the former operation that required elemental mercury.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative: On 3/6/2011 EPA received a NRC Report describing a release of approximately 5 lbs. of mercury in a residence located at 1943 Braswell Place, Lenoir, Caldwell County, NC. EPA OSC Ken Rhame arrived on scene at approximately 7 pm, obtained access, and issued CERCLA Letter of Federal Interest to property owner (Phillip Hahn). OSC Rhame observed an estimated 5 lbs of mercury that had been spilled in the kitchen area. It appeared that the homeowner had attempted to clean the mercury himself based upon the mercury visible in trash can as well as the broom and dust pan in corner with rubber gloves on the table. EPA conducted air monitoring using a LUMEX mercury vapor analyzer. Mercury concentrations in the breathing zone in kitchen were approximately 23 micrograms per cubic meter with an air temperature of 38 degrees. The source of mercury is a small glass flask topped with a cork. The flask was located in a cabinet in the kitchen. It is unknown how the spill occurred. Two adults were in the kitchen when the spill was noticed, the homeowner and a friend who resides in the home with his wife, two toddlers and one infant. The men exited the area after the spill occurred and claim that nobody else entered the kitchen. The homeowner and other residents were placed in Hotel by Red Cross, a dog and bird were placed in a animal shelter by Animal Control.

OSC Stephen Ball is responding from Atlanta to conduct the removal action in place of OSC Ken Rhame who has a non-related ethylene oxide emergency response action occurring simultaneously. START consultant OTIE and ERRS contractor Environmental Restoration are mobilizing to assist OSC Ball.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

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>

2.2 Planning Section

No information available at this time.

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

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

No information available at this time.

4. Personnel On Site

No information available at this time.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.