

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Radiation at Tip O'Neill Building ER - Removal Polrep  
Initial and Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region I

**Subject:** **POLREP #1**  
**Radiation Incident Emergency Response - Initial and Final**  
**Radiation at Tip O'Neill Building ER**  
  
**Boston, MA**  
**Latitude: 42.3652000 Longitude: -71.0631000**

**To:**  
**From:** Mia Pasquerella, OSC  
**Date:** 5/18/2011  
**Reporting Period:**

**1. Introduction**

**1.1 Background**

|                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Site Number:</b>                 | <b>Contract Number:</b>           |
| <b>D.O. Number:</b>                 | <b>Action Memo Date:</b>          |
| <b>Response Authority:</b> CERCLA   | <b>Response Type:</b> Emergency   |
| <b>Response Lead:</b>               | <b>Incident Category:</b>         |
| <b>NPL Status:</b>                  | <b>Operable Unit:</b>             |
| <b>Mobilization Date:</b> 5/17/2011 | <b>Start Date:</b> 5/17/2011      |
| <b>Demob Date:</b> 5/17/2011        | <b>Completion Date:</b> 5/17/2011 |
| <b>CERCLIS ID:</b>                  | <b>RCRIS ID:</b>                  |
| <b>ERNS No.:</b>                    | <b>State Notification:</b>        |
| <b>FPN#:</b>                        | <b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>    |

**1.1.1 Incident Category**

Emergency Response

**1.1.2 Site Description**

Tip O'Neil Federal Facility Building in Boston, MA

**1.1.2.1 Location**

10 Causeway Street, Boston, MA

**1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

Radiation detected in the basement of the building during a scheduled walk through by the federal security officers.

**1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

Radiation source was located in the basement of the building.

**2. Current Activities**

**2.1 Operations Section**

**2.1.1 Narrative**

According to a report on WBZ News, a Level 3 HazMat incident has occurred at the Tip O'Neill Federal Building in Boston, MA. Two federal security officers were performing a walk through of an area in the basement when their personal radiation detectors indicated that there were significant radiation levels present in the area. The officers left the area and alerted the Boston HazMat team. Boston HazMat responded to the scene and performed an extended surveyed of the basement area. The two security officers have been isolated and are awaiting evaluation.

MassDEP will not be responding to the scene. The state radiation organization, the Nuclear Incident

Advisory Team (NIAT), is currently on scene working with Boston HazMat and providing oversight. NIAT reported that the source is an old radium source and that the threat of continued contamination is minimal.

Per a request made by NIAT, EPA has deployed our radiation expert Tony Honnellio to offer EPAs assistance with further evaluating the threat and to discuss decontamination and disposal issues.

EPAs radiation expert Tony Honnellio arrived on scene at 1900hrs and integrated into incident command.

At that time, the two federal security officers had been cleared and it was determined that they were not contaminated with radioactive material.

EPA accompanied NIAT on an investigation of the affected area to determine the exact source of the radiation. The source was located inside of an old sextant compass, encased in the dial and two glass bulbs. Upon inspection, it was determined that the source was contained and did not pose a threat of release. The compass was then placed in a large over pack drum and shipped to the NIAT laboratory in Jamaica Plain. MA.

EPA has accepted responsibility for coordinating the disposal of the source material. Tony will be working with NIAT throughout the disposal process.

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

EPA reached out to the U.S.S. Constitution located in the Boston Navy Yard and has made an agreement with them to accept ownership of the sexton compass. The compass will be maintained intact for historical preservation.

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

N/A

#### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

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

### 2.2 Planning Section

#### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

N/A

##### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

N/A

##### 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**

N/A

**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**

EPA

NIAT

Boston District Hazmat

**3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

MassDEP

**4. Personnel On Site**

EPA

NIAT

Boston District Hazmat

**5. Definition of Terms**

N/A

**6. Additional sources of information**

**6.1 Internet location of additional information/report**

N/A

**6.2 Reporting Schedule**

N/A

**7. Situational Reference Materials**

N/A