

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
MultiChem Chemical Fire - Removal Polrep  
Initial and Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region VI

**Subject:** POLREP #1  
Initial & Final  
MultiChem Chemical Fire  
A6BG  
New Iberia, LA  
Latitude: 30.0328000 Longitude: -91.8626000

**To:**  
**From:** Bryant Smalley, FOSC  
**Date:** 6/17/2011  
**Reporting Period:** 6/14-16/2011

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	A6BG	<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>	PRP	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Assessment
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	6/15/2011	<b>Start Date:</b>	6/15/2011
<b>Demob Date:</b>	6/15/2011	<b>Completion Date:</b>	6/15/2011
<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

At approximately 3:45 PM on June 14, 2011, the Multi-Chem plant located at 401 West Admiral Doyal Drive, New Iberia, Iberia Parish, Louisiana, caught on fire and subsequently several explosions occurred. The fire caused a large plume of smoke. The Louisiana State police and local officials issued an evacuation for a 1 mile radius of the facility. Multi-Chem is an oilfield production chemicals company. At 8:30 pm EPA R6 received the NRC report(# 979692), regarding the incident. The Multi-Chem facility is an RMP regulated facility. At the time of the report, no injuries had been reported. LDEQ's representatives were onsite conducting air monitoring. Additionally, Louisiana State Police had taken the role as lead responding state agency deciding to let the fire burn overnight and ordering an evacuation of a 1 mile radius. The prevailing winds maintained the plume toward the Northeast, decreasing the number of residences in the plume path.

1.1.2.1 Location

The facility is located at 3401 West Admiral Doyal Drive, New Iberia, Iberia Parish, Louisiana 70560. There are approximately 100 residential properties in the 1 mile evacuation zone. The site is located within an industrial area and adjacent to the Acadiana Municipal Airport and the University of Louisiana Primate Research facility. The research facility reportedly has 6,800 primates on site.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Oilfield Chemical Storage Fire. The chemical storage are consisted of tanks, totes and drums of Xylene, Methanol, Toluene, Butyl Cellusolve, Ethylene Glycol, Triazene and various solvents.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

EPA arrived on scene at approximately 11:30 am on June 15, 2011. After initial briefings, EPA accompanied the LA State Police on an overview flight and verified locations and integrity of fire water runoff and retention dams. Eagle and Oil Mop were hired as Multi-Chem's environmental response contractors and were on site. The contractors had

built retention dams in the surrounding ditches to contain fire suppression runoff. Vac-trucks are being used to collect the runoff and store it in frac-tanks. The PRP is collecting samples of the run off to determine proper disposal. LDEQ will also coordinate soil samples to determine if soil remediation is necessary.

The fire continued to burn until 2:14 PM on June 15, 2011, when the last tanks were extinguished. The evacuation was not lifted until the next morning, June 16, 2011. At that time, the exclusion zone was reduced to a 2 block area around the remains of the facility bounded by Fox St, Vortex St and Admiral Doyle Blvd. LDEQ offered to monitor the interior of all 100 homes, prior to reentry. Home occupants will be asked to sign a reentry form showing they want or don't want the monitoring. LDEQ will have 4 teams involved in the monitoring.

In addition to the air monitoring being conducted by LDEQ, Multi-Chem hired CTEH to conduct monitoring/sampling (air, water & waste). CTEH deployed 3 AreaRae monitors at fixed locations, and 1 mobile (roving) AreaRae (analytes sampled with the Area-Rea are CO, LEL, O2, VOCs, and NO), and 3 minican canisters were taken. Air monitoring was also conducted with handheld MultiRAEs and an AM-510 (for Particulate Matter). The highest particulate reading was 0.7 mg/m3. The MultiRAE included CO, LEL, NO2, VOCs, and O2. Air monitoring locations included location surrounding the facility and residential areas (at the animal testing facility, prison, and incident command). The minicans were at the three corresponding AreaRAE stations with one grab sample taken within the smoke plume the first night. The minicans will be analyzed for TO-15 + TICs. CTEH also deployed a Manta II water quality monitoring unit for pH, Temperature, Conductivity, and DO in Spanish Lake, to assure there was no impact from particulate fallout.

EPA demobilized from the scene at approximately 5:30pm.

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

Multi-Chem Group, LLC

#### 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

#### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

#### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps

No additional EPA response actions are anticipated. EPA will maintain contact with LDEQ and LA State Police to keep abreast of any change in status that may impact the public. LA State Police is focused on identification of drum and containers remaining at the facility.

#### 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

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.

