

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
R2 Hurricane Irene/TS Lee (NY) Response - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region II

Subject: **POLREP #19**
Progress Continues
R2 Hurricane Irene/TS Lee (NY) Response

Edison, NJ
Latitude: 40.5159553 Longitude: -74.3550459

To:
From: Eric Mosher, Regional Incident Coordinator
Date: 9/13/2011
Reporting Period: 09/13/2011

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:
Response Authority: Stafford Act	Response Type: Emergency
Response Lead: EPA	Incident Category: Removal Action
NPL Status: Non NPL	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date:	Start Date: 8/26/2011
Demob Date:	Completion Date:
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification:
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Operations at the Dover, NJ household hazardous waste processing facility have increased due to the amount of materials received. Efforts to field characterize the materials have allowed bulking and packing activities to run more efficiently. Preparations were made for transport and proper disposal/recycling of materials. Elsewhere in NJ, orphan containers were recovered from areas along the Passaic River. Preparations for a public meeting in Paterson were also conducted.

Activities in New York remain to focus on the collection of HHW and orphan containers throughout several counties affected by Hurricane Irene. Materials were collected from municipality operated staging areas, debris piles, and residential curbsides prior to being transported to EPA processing areas for bulking, packaging, and disposal.

EPA recovery efforts in New York associated with Tropical Storm Lee increased with the deployment of additional resources to Broom and Tioga Counties. Reconnaissance reports indicate that areas remain under water with thousands of residents displaced. EPA has commenced the collection of HHW in Binghamton and continued to coordinate efforts with local officials in additional communities throughout the impacted area.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

Emergency Response Task Force

- The Task Force was not activated.

NEW JERSEY RESPONSE ACTIONS

The REOC addressed complaints from a resident in Kinnelon, NJ regarding road washout and a partial bridge collapse into a river along Kinnelon Avenue. The REOC also addressed a concern over criminal activities at the SOS facility in Tuxedo, NY. The caller wanted EPA to conduct a gross negligence investigation on the facility regarding a release of material during Hurricane Irene.

Passaic County

Oil / Hazardous Materials Response and Recovery Actions

- Orphan containers were collected from Woodland Park and Little Falls.
- A home heating oil tank in Wayne was pumped out.
- EPA will be in attendance for a public meeting on 09/13/2011.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal

- EPA continued to coordinate with DPW on the potential use of a facility in Paterson for staging HHW.

Bergen County

Oil / Hazardous Materials Response and Recovery Actions

- No response or recovery operations were performed in Bergen County.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal

- No HHW staging areas have been established by EPA in Bergen County.

Morris County

Oil / Hazardous Materials Response and Recovery Actions

- Samples were collected of contaminated soils and materials recovered from early operations in Denville. Results will be utilized for disposal purposes.

Household Hazardous Waste / Bulk Liquid Collection and Disposal

- Dover - The HHW staging and processing facility continued to receive materials from the tri-county area. Bulking of materials continued as preparations commenced for disposal. Hazard characterization of materials also started.
- Lake Hiawatha – Materials were moved to the Dover HHW staging area.
- Riverdale – No activities occurred at this bulk waste storage area.
- Whippany – No activities occurred at this bulk waste storage area.

Below is a summary table for NJ Incident Reports as of 1420 on 9/13/2011. The table includes their status and materials involved.

New Jersey Incidents	Incident Status			
	Closed	Managed	Open	Grand Total
Oil	40	5		45
Haz	1	2		3
Grand Total	41	7		48

NEW YORK RESPONSE ACTIONS

NYSDEC Region 4 Area

Oil / Hazardous Materials Response and Recovery Actions

- EPA is coordinating with Schenectady County on HHW. A request was received to assist in the removal of HHW from ~60 homes located in various communities.
- Field reports in the area indicated residential concerns of pooled water and mosquitoes, along with dealing with animal carcasses.
- EPA received a request from Oswego County to remove HHW from the village of Unadilla.
- Curbside collection of HHW and orphan recovery efforts continued in Gallupville, Esperance, Middleburgh, Schoharie (all in Schoharie County), Arkville (Delaware County), and areas around Prattsville (Greene County).
- EPA continued to coordinate disposal options of HHW with Greene County Solid Waste officials

Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal

- Greene County
 - Hunter – Facility was operational.
 - Windham – Facility was operational, rumored to be closing soon.
 - Catskill – Facility was operational.
 - Prattsville – Facility was operational.
- Delaware County

- Arkville – Facility was operational, however it is projected to close on 9/18/2011.
- Sidney – Facility was established to handle HHW collected from Sidney and nearby communities.
- Schoharie County
 - Howes Cave – This central HHW staging area for the NYSDEC Region 4 area was operational and receiving materials. Preparations have commenced for the transport and disposal of bulk material.
 - Schoharie Debris Pile – Crews continued to segregate and containerize HHW that was received in the yard and located throughout the pile.

NYSDEC Region 5 Area

Oil / Hazardous Materials Response and Recovery Actions

- Recovery of orphan containers and HHW continued in Upper Jay, Jay, Keene, Keene Valley, Elizabethtown (Essex County) and Au Sable Forks (Clinton County).
- EPA is preparing reconnaissance operations of the Ausable River for orphan containers.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal

- Lewis – Facility was operational.

Below is a summary table for NY Incident Reports as of 1420 on 9/13/2011. The table includes their status and materials involved.

New York Incidents	Incident Status			
	Closed	Managed	Open	Grand Total
Oil	7	5		12
Other			1	1
Haz	11	3		14
Grand Total	16	8	1	27

CUMULATIVE HAZARDOUS WASTE SUMMERY TABLE

Below is a summery table indicating the amount of containers collected through HHW and orphan container recovery efforts in response to Hurricane Irene. This data was collected at 1420 on 09/13/2011. Container counts may include numbers not previously reported from past operational periods.

Cumulative Hazardous Waste Summary				Operational Period: 09/12/2011			
Location	Drums	Propane Tanks	Cylinders	Other (Large)	Small Containers (<5 gal)	Op-Period Totals	State Cumulative
New York	21	39	3	21	1787	1871	17724
New Jersey	0	3	4	4	388	399	14177
Op-Period Totals	21	42	7	25	2175		
Cumulative Totals	61	423	56	142	29914		
Grand Total	2270						
Grand Cumulative							

Note: Numbers listed in the table are accurate at the time of delivery of this report. Field crews sometimes transfer numbers following the end of the reporting period due to communication issues. As a result, daily totals may change in future reports to capture all containers collected for that operational period. Because of this, operational period totals do not reflect true count numbers due to late reporting. However, the grand cumulative numbers are accurate at the time this report.

TROPICAL STORM LEE (NY ONLY)

Resources continued to be deployed to Broome and Tioga Counties in NY as a response to TS Lee. Reconnaissance activities and coordination with State and local officials have indicated the potential need for HHW staging areas in the municipalities of Vestal, Binghamton, Johnson City, Conklin, Owego (priority), Apalachin, and Nichols.

NYSDEC Region 7 Area

- Coordinated with NYSDEC and other officials in the Broome and Tioga Counties

to determine locations of HHW and orphan container processing areas.

- The Ombudsman and REOC have been receiving calls from residents requesting HHW curbside assistance. Collections occurred in Johnson City and Binghamton.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal

- Binghamton – An HHW collection area has been established and was operational.

EPA REGION 2 COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

EPA Region 2 is currently manning the following coordination centers;

- NYSDEC Region 7 Office (Kirkwood, NY) – (2) EPA representatives deployed to the NYSDEC Sub-Office to coordinate activities.
- FEMA IMAT (Albany, NY) – (1) OSC coordinating with the State and FEMA on increases to existing Mission Assignments and processing of Mission Assignments for TS Lee NY.
- EPA Region 2 REOC (Edison, NJ)
 - Coordinating efforts related to operations, planning, resources, and logistics from the REOC. The REOC is staging and coordinating the deployment of operational resources including EPA ERRS and RST contractor support.
 - The REOC is manning the Regional Hotline phone and addressing follow-up and response actions to incidents both related and unrelated to the impacts of Hurricane Irene. The REOC is tracking situational information related to RFAs and changing conditions on the ground.

2.2 Planning Section

The Region 2 Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) continued to manage EPA and contractor resources for support of field operations. Long-Term Staffing Plans have been generated to fill potential personnel needs in the REOC and in field operations.

2.3 Logistics Section

Additional resources have been ordered and deployed to the Binghamton area to assist with initial reconnaissance missions, recovery of oil/hazardous materials, and orphan containers. Additional assets were requested by the Dover staging area manager for chemical technicians.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

The daily safety message is posted on the regional incident website:

<http://www.epaosc.org/R2HurricaneIreneResponse>. Additional safety concerns regarding sharps, bee stings, hunting season, and bear encounters were discussed with field crews.

2.6 Liaison Officer

A Liaison Officer has not yet been assigned however coordination activities are being done at several locations and with multiple Federal and State Agencies.

2.7 Information Officer

Pat Seppi is the Public Information Officer and can be reached at 646-369-0068. The PIO worked on the following:

- Larisa Romanowski 515-703-0101, CIC for NYSDEC Region 4 met with the OSCs and is contacting OEMs in the area to discuss potential EPA assistance. A request to visit the Schenectady County on 09/15/2011 was received.
- Natalie Loney, CIC for NYSDEC Region 7 will deploy to Binghamton on 09/15/2011.
- David Kluesner, 908-420-7261 CIC for NJ, generated talking points for a Paterson Council Meeting occurring on the evening of 09/13/2011.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

Unified Command is currently not activated at this level.

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

EPA is currently coordinating with FEMA, NYS DEC, NYS DOH, NJ DEP, NYSEMO, NJOEM.

4. Personnel On Site

Region/State	Current EPA Personnel In Field (All Venues other than EPA Offices)	Current EPA Contractor Personnel In Field	EPA Personnel in REOC	Contractor Personnel in REOC	Total
Region 2			14	26	40
New York	7	74			81
New Jersey	5	33			38
Total	12	87	14	26	159

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

WEBSITE: <http://www.epaosc.org/R2HurricaneIreneResponse>

If you find that you are having trouble viewing the website, please contact the EPA duty officer at (732) 906-6850

EPA Edison REOC	732-906-6850
Afterhours Notifications, National Response Center (NRC)	800-424-8802
Regional Incident Commander (RIC) for NY, James Daloia	908-420-4505
Regional Incident Commander (RIC) for NJ, Christopher Jimenez	908-420-4484
FEMA IMAT (Albany), Dwayne Harrington, OSC	908-420-4492

6.2 Reporting Schedule

Situation Reports are planned for release at 1630 on a daily basis.

7. Situational Reference Materials

Looting and civil unrest in Owego, NY has become a concern. A heavy police presence has been activated.

All responders are asked to remain vigilant during the anniversary of the September 11th attacks.

Hotels in the Binghamton area are difficult to come by. Many people are displaced and several hotels have sustained damage.

Pollution Reports for response activities in New Jersey associated with Tropical Storm Lee can be found at www.epaosc.org/TSLeeNJ

General Weather for the next Operational Period:

- In NJ operational areas, isolated thunder storms are expected. Temperatures from 64-81.
- In NY operational areas, party cloudy conditions are expected with temperatures from 53-70.