

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Old Bassett Warehouse Fire - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region III

Subject: POLREP #5
Progress POLREP
Old Bassett Warehouse Fire
A3SZ
Bassett, VA
Latitude: 36.7689876 Longitude: -80.0033104

To: Jerry Heston, US EPA Region III
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Date: 6/11/2012

Reporting Period: June 3 to June 9, 2012

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	A3SZ	Contract Number:	EP-S3-12-03
D.O. Number:	1	Action Memo Date:	4/27/2012
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	5/9/2012	Start Date:	5/19/2012
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:	VAN000306849	RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Time-critical removal action.

1.1.2 Site Description

On November 21, 2011, an arson fire destroyed a 300,000 square foot brick, timber, and steel warehouse building on Trent Hill Drive in Henry County, Virginia. The warehouse, formerly used by the Bassett Furniture Company, was owned by a non-profit entity which used it to store items for distribution to charities. The fire resulted in the collapse of approximately half of the building leaving a debris pile of roughly 5 acres. While investigating the fire, suspected asbestos-containing material (ACM) was identified by local responders. On December 1, 2011, Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VADEM) called the National Response Center (NRC) and reported the findings of potential ACM. EPA responded to the report and VADEM requested assistance with assessing the situation.

1.1.2.1 Location

Bassett, Henry County, Virginia.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Friable asbestos containing materials (ACM) exposed to the environment.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

During the fire investigation, suspected ACM was spotted. Virginia Department of Labor and Industry (VADOLI) mobilized to Site and confirmed, via visual characterization, that there was significant asbestos materials present in the rubble of the building. EPA performed two sampling events, an initial assessment was performed in December 2011 and additional sampling occurred in January 2012. Samples collected during both events at the Site revealed the presence of material containing up to 40 % friable asbestos in the debris located throughout the Site.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

An action memorandum was signed on April 27, 2012 authorizing EPA to begin fund lead removal activities at the Old Bassett Warehouse Fire Site.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

ERRS continued to segregate steel from the debris pile, wash it, and stage it for potential recycling by REA. Damaged, partially collapsed walls and roofing were carefully demolished and staged for disposal. Copious amounts of water, from a water truck and fire hydrant, were used to adequately wet the materials to comply with all substantive requirements of NESHAPs.

Personal air monitoring continued during all operations to ensure worker safety. Samples were analyzed via Phase Contrast Microscopy (PCM) using NIOSH Method 7400. All results except for two ranged between .0024f/cc and .00934 l/cc. This is well below the NIOSH limit of .1f/cc that requires respirator protection. The two samples, .0114 f/cc and .0106 f/cc respectively, were collected on the same day during efforts to recover the tool that allegedly started the fire. During this sifting, handtools (rakes and shovels) were used to move small pieces of brick and debris. While water was still utilized to maintain sufficiently wetted materials, it was less concentrated than during normal operations. At no time was there visible emissions from in or around the work area(s) in question.

All hot zone work is being performed in Level C personnel protective equipment (PPE).

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

Resource Exchange Associates has been identified as the owner of the building in question.

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

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

EPA will continue removal activities to mitigate the threat to human health and the environment posed by friable asbestos containing material located on site. Approximately 17 drums with unknown contents were discovered in the debris pile. The drums have been staged and will be sampled to determine their contents and arrange for disposal.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Arrangements will be made for off-site transportation and disposal of the ACM.

2.2.2 Issues

Asbestos falls under a nationally significant or precedent setting issue and EPA headquarters has concurred with the action memorandum.

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative

Task Order # 1 was awarded to the ERRS contractor for \$250,000. EPA issued a technical delivery document (TDD) to the Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractor for \$45,000. Both contractors are being incrementally funded.

On June 6, 2012, the task order for ERRS was modified to increase the ceiling to \$500,000.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				

ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$500,000.00	\$244,209.00	\$255,791.00	51.16%
TAT/START	\$45,000.00	\$19,701.00	\$25,299.00	56.22%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$545,000.00	\$263,910.00	\$281,090.00	51.58%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

No information available at this time.

4. Personnel On Site

EPA: 1 On Scene Coordinator
ERRS: 1 Response Manager
1 Field Cost Accountant
4 Equipment Operators
4 Cleanup Technicians
1 Truck Driver
START: 1 Environmental Technician

5. Definition of Terms

ACM	Asbestos containing material
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERRS	Emergency and Rapid Response Services
HASP	Health and Safety Plan
NESHAPS	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator
POLREP	Pollution Report
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PRP	Potentially Responsible Party
START	Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team
VADEM	Virginia Department of Emergency Management
VADEQ	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
VADOLI	Virginia Department of Labor and Industry

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

The OSC has established a website at www.epaosc.org/oldbassetthousefire.

6.2 Reporting Schedule

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.