

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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region III

**Subject:** POLREP #6  
Progress POLREP  
Old Bassett Warehouse Fire  
  
Bassett, VA  
Latitude: 36.7689876 Longitude: -80.0033104

**To:**  
**From:** Stephanie Wenning, OSC  
Myles Bartos, OSC  
**Date:** 6/18/2012  
**Reporting Period:** June 10 to June 16, 2012

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

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

#### 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 and decontaminated steel from the debris piles for recycling as well as staging ACM for off-site disposal. Personnel and perimeter air sampling and real time air monitoring continued daily. Constant wetting continues in the work areas to minimize dust and comply with the substantive requirements of NESHAPs. Air samples are being analyzed by PCM, NIOSH Method 7400. In accordance with the site air sampling plan, if the fiber loading on filter exceeds 5.5 fibers, then the sample is analyzed by TEM, NIOSH Method 7402. Perimeter samples for June 11 to 14, 2012 were all below 0.001 f/cc. Samples collected on June 15 and 16, 2012 had low detections of 0.001f/cc and 0.002 f/cc. These samples were further analyzed by TEM. All hot zone work is being performed in Level C personnel protective equipment (PPE).

In addition, safety fencing was installed along the building foundation edges and the HASP was updated to reflect additional on-site activities.

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

Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Manifest #	Treatment	Disposal

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. The disposal subcontract for the ACM was reviewed and approved on June 14, 2012.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Transportation and off-site disposal of ACM is expected to begin during the week of June 17, 2012.

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

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

- 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
f/cc	Fibers per cubic centimeter
HASP	Health and Safety Plan
NESHAPS	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator
PCM	Phase Contrast Microscopy
POLREP	Pollution Report
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PRP	Potentially Responsible Party
START	Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team
TEM	Transmission Electron Microscopy
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/oldbassetwarehousefire](http://www.epaosc.org/oldbassetwarehousefire).

### **6.2 Reporting Schedule**

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.