

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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region III

**Subject:** POLREP #9  
Progress POLREP  
Old Bassett Warehouse Fire  
A3SZ  
Bassett, VA  
Latitude: 36.7689876 Longitude: -80.0033104

**To:** Jerry Heston, US EPA Region III  
Dennis Carney, US EPA Region III  
RRC EPA Region III, US EPA

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**Date:** 7/14/2012

**Reporting Period:** July 1 to July 14, 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, START, and EPA crew mobilized back to Site following the holiday break on Sunday, July 8th, 2012. Three additional technicians were mobilized to handle the additional tonnage scheduled to be disposed of each day.

Site activities commenced on Monday, July 9th, 2012.

ERRS continued to properly dispose of ACM offsite. 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 July 9 to 13, 2012 were below 0.002 f/cc.

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

VA DOLI Wiggins visited Site to see the progress. Mr. Wiggins was pleased with the progress and the procedures utilized for the asbestos work including dust suppression, proper PPE, and air monitoring.

ERRS began to prepare for the demobilization of the Site which is anticipated to be on or around July 27th, 2012.

#### 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>
ACM Material	brick/soil	3,521 tons	various	N/A	X
	<b>TOTAL TO DATE:</b>	5,576 tons			

## 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. Disposal of ACM will be completed next week (July 16-20).

#### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Transportation and off-site disposal of ACM will continue. Preparations will be made for completion of Site and demobilization. This will include demob of equipment and personnel as appropriate.

#### 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 2, 2012, the TDD for START was amended to increase the budget to \$90,000

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

On June 14, 2012, the task order for ERRS was modified to increase the ceiling to \$1,230,000.

On July 13, 2012, the TDD for START was amended to increase hours. No change in monetary budget.

**Estimated Costs \***

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
<b>Extramural Costs</b>				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$1,230,000.00	\$878,894.00	\$351,106.00	28.55%
TAT/START	\$90,000.00	\$52,000.00	\$38,000.00	42.22%
<b>Intramural Costs</b>				
<b>Total Site Costs</b>	<b>\$1,320,000.00</b>	<b>\$930,894.00</b>	<b>\$389,106.00</b>	<b>29.48%</b>

\* 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
- 1 EPA Site Administrative Officer
- ERRS: 1 Response Manager
- 1 Field Cost Accountant
- 4 Equipment Operators
- 7 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.