

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Southside Chattanooga Lead - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IV

Subject: POLREP #10
* Residential Soil Removal Continues
Southside Chattanooga Lead

Chattanooga, TN
Latitude: 35.0333793 Longitude: -85.3057271

To:
From: Perry Gaughan, On Scene Coordinator
Date: 2/16/2013
Reporting Period: Feb 4th through Feb 16th, 2013

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	B4J4	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	8/19/2012
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	9/17/2012	Start Date:	9/24/2012
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Lead contaminated soil on 52 properties being removed as a time critical removal under CERCLA.

1.1.2 Site Description

The Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation (TDEC) requested the EPA Region 4 Emergency Response and Removal Branch's (ERRB's) assistance after discovering that the lawns of one residence and potentially several more were contaminated with lead along Read Avenue near downtown Chattanooga. Initially, one resident along Read Avenue presented to the emergency room with severe fatigue and abdominal pain. Emergency room blood work indicated lead levels approaching 20 micrograms per deciliter (ug/dl) which alerted TDEC to conduct follow up assessments. TDEC requested assistance from ERRB to characterize the soil around the home and an initial assessment was conducted with SESD (Science and Ecosystem Support Division) Athens in which three homes were assessed as well as a public park and playground area at 1700 Mitchell Avenue. Ten samples were collected and two samples showed elevated lead levels exceeding 400 ppm.

1.1.2.1 Location

The Southside Chattanooga Lead Site is located along Read, Mitchell and Carr Avenues south of Main Street in Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee (Latitude: 35.0456, Longitude: -85.3097). The area is a blend of young, middle income couples who are renovating older constructed homes and low to middle income retired couples who have resided in the area for 20 plus years. The vast majority of homes were built in the early 1900's.

The Southside Chattanooga area is immediately adjacent to downtown Chattanooga and was prone to flooding during the early 1900's and prior to the development of damming and flood control measures by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Several of the homes along Read and Mitchell Avenues appear to have been built on 4-5 feet of clay fill.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

In response to a request from TDEC, the EPA Region 4 ERRB with assistance from SESD Athens, conducted two follow up assessments of the Read and Mitchell Avenue area in January and April 2012. Of the 81 homes (162 front and back yards) assessed near downtown Chattanooga, 68 lawns (42 %) have lead

levels exceeding 400 ppm. Lead levels range from 400 – 4000 ppm. The 4000 ppm sample was collected from a lawn along the 1600 block of Read Ave and the sample contained very dark fine material, most likely a high concentration of bag-house dust.

In addition, the Battle Academy Elementary School which neighbors the site was sampled in mid June 2012. A 20' by 20' grid was laid over the school property and 140 grids were screened using X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy (XRF). No significant lead contamination was found and all lead levels were below 55 ppm.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

Feb 1st through Feb 9th, 2013

On Feb 1st, ERRs placed sod at 110 East Main Street, 1605 Read, and 1607 Read Avenue. The crew also dismantled a small section of fence at 1609 Read, continued soil removal at 1609 Read Ave, and began excavation at 1611 Read. On Feb 2nd, ERRs continued to remove contaminated soil from 1609 Read, however at approximately 1100 hours, heavy snowfall began and was accumulating on the ground. ERRs project manager stopped work at 1100 hours due to icy road conditions.

On Feb 4th ERRs completed contaminated soil removal from the lot at 1609 Read and began backfilling the area. Approx 140 cubic yards of clay and topsoil were used to backfill the lot prior to seeding as agreed upon with the owner. On Feb 5th, ERRs completed some minor repairs in the backyard of 1715 Read Ave and along the alley between Read Ave and Mitchell Ave. Once again ERRs continued excavating contaminated soils from the side and backyards of 1607 Read Ave. The majority of this excavation work was done by hand because of the proximity to the home and its structural integrity being in question.

On Feb 6th, the excavation of 1607's yard adjacent to 1605 Read and backyard continued and clay and topsoil was brought in prior to sodding on Thursday, Feb 7th. Start completed task specific air sampling during excavation operations in the backyard of 1607 Read. ERRs also took delivery of eight pallets of sod (fescue hybrid) in prep for operations on Thursday.

On Feb 7th, heavy rains which were forecasted for the area moved south of Chattanooga and ERRs completed excavating contaminated soils from along the driveway of 1607 Read and installed sod at 1605, 1607 and 1609 Read Avenue. Rain did move in the following day and operations were cancelled in the afternoon. ERRs fencing subcontractors did continue work at 1717 and 1719 Read Ave. On Feb 9th, the ERRs crew began preparing the property at 1631 Read for excavation activities.

Feb 11th through Feb 15th, 2013

Rain delayed operations early in the week and ERRs began excavating the backyards of 1623 and 1625 Read on Tuesday, Feb 12th. Additional contaminated soil activities continued on Wednesday through Friday of the side and front yards. Because of the limited space between 1623 and 1625 Read additional equipment to move excavated soil was rented.

On Feb 11th, ERRs

START contractors continue to assist with technical support, daily operations, post-excavation confirmation sampling using X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy (Xrf) and air sampling during excavation and staging of contaminated soils.

The OSC continues to coordinate clean up efforts and assessments with Tenn Dept of Environmental Conservation (TDEC) and Tenn Dept of Health as well as Hamilton County health officials. TDEC and the OSC plan to update Chattanooga City Council during February 2013. A specific date has not been set by City Council.

The OSC, Tenn Dept of Health and Tenn Dept of Environmental Conservation (TDEC) are currently preparing an assessment strategy for Chattanooga City Council addressing future lead assessments in the downtown area.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

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

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

No information available at this time.

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

3.1 Unified Command

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

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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.