

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Belmont Avenue Warehouse Fire - Removal Polrep
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region V

Subject: **POLREP #1**
Initial and Final PolRep for Air Monitoring
Belmont Avenue Warehouse Fire

Indianapolis, IN
Latitude: 39.7613920 Longitude: -86.1985070

To:

From: Shelly Lam, On-Scene Coordinator

Date: 6/16/2013

Reporting Period: June 15-16, 2013

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:
Response Authority: CERCLA	Response Type: Emergency
Response Lead: EPA	Incident Category: Removal Action
NPL Status: Non NPL	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date: 6/15/2013	Start Date: 6/15/2013
Demob Date: 6/16/2013	Completion Date: 6/16/2013
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification:
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Incident Category:
Spill or other one-time event

1.1.2 Site Description

The site is the Belmont Avenue Warehouse Fire. It is comprised of a warehouse that contained materials for recycling, including tires and asphalt roofing shingles. The warehouse also contained wooden pallets, propane tanks, and heavy equipment. The facility caught fire the morning of June 15, 2013.

1.1.2.1 Location

The site is located at 220 S. Belmont Avenue in Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana. Site coordinates are 39.7587870 degrees north latitude and 86.1973720 degrees west longitude.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Tires, asphalt shingles, propane, and fuel were involved in the warehouse fire. A large, black, smoke plume was visible as far away as surrounding counties. The Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD) issued a mandatory evacuation for approximately 100 homes downwind of the fire. CSX Transportation, who had rail lines next to the facility, reported the fire to the National Response Center at 16:01 on June 15, 2013 (Incident # 1050531).

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

See Section 2.1.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

The Marion County Public Health Department (MCPHD) requested assistance with air monitoring from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on June 15, 2013. On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Shelly Lam responded. OSC Lam mobilized the Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractor, the Environmental Response Team (ERT), and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

EPA worked in conjunction with MCPHD and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to conduct the response actions listed below. EPA worked with ATSDR to setup the air monitoring and

sampling program and establish action levels for public health.

- Deployed ten AreaRAE multi-gas instruments to monitor for volatile organic compounds (VOC). AreaRAEs were located in residential areas northwest, north, northeast, and east of the fire to accommodate for changes in wind direction;
- Deployed two mobile VIPER units connected to DataRAMs for particulate monitoring. The DataRAMs were configured to collect measurements for 2.5 micrometer particulate matter (PM2.5). The mobile teams surveyed in all directions around the fire;
- Conducted air monitoring for sulfuric acid and sulfur dioxide using Single Point Monitors (SPM);
- Conducted air monitoring for benzene using Drager tubes and an UltraRAE;
- Conducted additional air monitoring for sulfur dioxide using Drager tubes;
- Collected air samples for metals, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH), asbestos, and sulfur dioxide analysis.

Real-time air monitoring results showed sulfuric acid and sulfur dioxide above the action levels at several locations. These detections were immediately adjacent to the fire and not in any residential areas. Particulate matter exceeded action level for PM2.5 in many areas. However, no other chemicals were detected above the action levels. Based on this data, ATSDR, EPA, and MCPHD recommended to the Incident Commander that residents could return to their homes but should shelter in place if exposed to smoke from the fire to avoid particulate matter. Around 0700 hours on June 16th, IFD lifted the evacuation order.

Constituent	Action Level	Maximum Concentration
Sulfuric Acid	50 ppb	88 ppb
Sulfur Dioxide	75 ppb	500 ppb
VOC	1 ppm	0.6 ppm
PM 2.5	>1200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Benzene	0 ppb	200 ppb
ppb - parts per billion		
ppm - parts per million		
$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ - micrograms per cubic meter		

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

EPA is gathering information about the tenants and owners of the building that caught fire.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

IFD diverted fire run-off water into sewer system, which was treated at the sewer treatment plant.

R5 Priorities Summary		
This is an Integrated River Assessment. The numbers should overlap.	Miles of river systems cleaned and/or restored	0
	Cubic yards of contaminated sediments removed and/or capped	0
	Gallons of oil/water recovered	0
	Acres of soil/sediment cleaned up in floodplains and riverbanks	0
Stand Alone Assessment	Acres Protected	0
	Number of contaminated residential yards cleaned up	0
	Human Health Exposures Avoided	300
	Number of workers on site	Unknown
Contaminant(s) of Concern		
Contaminant(s) of Concern	Sulfuric acid, particulate matter	

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

The following sections detail anticipated activities.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

EPA concluded air monitoring operations at 1200 hours on June 16, 2013. The fire was under control, although a few hot spots continued to burn. Smouldering will likely continue until June 17th. However, the only chemicals of concern EPA detected (sulfuric acid and sulfur dioxide) were in the hot zone around the fire and posed no danger to nearby residents.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

EPA will submit air samples for analysis, and will provide sample results to MCPHD and IDEM.

2.2.2 Issues

None

2.3 Logistics Section

The firefighter rehabilitation unit provided logistical support.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

OSC Lam was the safety officer for EPA's activities.

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

Not applicable (NA)

2.5.3 Information Officer

IFD's Public Information Officer (PIO) served as the lead for media inquiries. OSC Lam provided interviews to three television news stations.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

A battalion chief from IFD served as Incident Commander.

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

EPA received support from IFD, MCPHD, IDEM, and ATSDR.

4. Personnel On Site

The following personnel were supporting air monitoring operations:

Agency	Role	# Personnel
EPA	On-Scene Coordinator	1
EPA	Environmental Response Team	1
ATSDR	Toxicologist	1
IDEM	State OSC	1
MCPHD	Hazmat Technicians	2
START	Air Monitoring	4
ERT Contractor	Equipment Support	1

5. Definition of Terms

ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERT	Environmental Response Team
IDEM	Indiana Department of Environmental Management
IFD	Indianapolis Fire Department
MCPHD	Marion County Public Health Department
NA	Not applicable
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator
PAH	Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons
PIO	Public Information Officer
PM 2.5	2.5 micron particulate matter
PolRep	Pollution Report
ppb	parts per billion
ppm	parts per million
PRP	Potentially Responsible Party
SPM	Single Point Monitor
START	Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team
TDD	Technical Direction Document
ug/m3	micrograms per cubic meter
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

The OSC has posted additional information to www.epaosc.org/belmontavefire.

6.2 Reporting Schedule

The OSC will not submit any additional PolReps.

7. Situational Reference Materials

NA