

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Holcomb & Hoke Warehouse Fire - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region V

**Subject:** **POLREP #2**  
**Progress PolRep**  
**Holcomb & Hoke Warehouse Fire**  
**Indianapolis, IN**  
**Latitude: 39.7404510 Longitude: -86.1337630**

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**From:** Shelly Lam, On-Scene Coordinator  
**Date:** 9/12/2013  
**Reporting Period:** September 12, 2013

**1. Introduction**

**1.1 Background**

<b>Site Number:</b>	<b>Contract Number:</b>
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>
<b>Response Authority:</b> CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b> Emergency
<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> 9/10/2013	<b>Start Date:</b> 9/11/2013
<b>Demob Date:</b>	<b>Completion Date:</b>
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>
<b>ERNS No.:</b>	<b>State Notification:</b>
<b>FPN#:</b>	<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>

**1.1.1 Incident Category**

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Incident Category: Manufacturing/Processing/Maintenance

**1.1.2 Site Description**

The site is the former Holcomb & Hoke Manufacturing Company. Holcomb & Hoke purchased the property in 1903, and began operations in 1906. They manufactured popcorn poppers, paint brushes, wall panels, and other items throughout their history. The facility has been abandoned for several years.

The site is over 8 acres in size and contains multiple buildings, including an office building; former manufacturing and processing buildings, including a building used for electroplating; and a flammable storage building.

#### 1.1.2.1 Location

Holcomb & Hoke is located at 1545 Van Buren Street in Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana. Site coordinates are 39.7404510 degrees north latitude and 86.1337630 degrees west longitude. Adjacent properties include a railroad and industrial facility to the north; an industrial facility to the east; residential properties to the south; and a vacant field to the west, beyond which are additional residences and Interstate 65 (I-65).

#### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The facility caught fire on September 8, 2013 and burned for about 15 hours. Drums and asbestos-containing material (ACM) were involved in the fire. Radar images during the fire showed wind from the east, with debris from the fire possibly deposited to the west. Additionally, response personnel reported that the wind shifted, coming from the south during the fire, with additional possible deposition to the north. The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) reported the fire and possible releases to the National Response Center (NRC) on September 10, 2013 (NRC #1059783).

#### 1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received results from asbestos samples collected on September 11th. Of the bulk samples collected, four contained chrysotile asbestos ranging from 2 to 20 percent (%). These samples consisted of floor tile (3-4%), mastic (2%), and pipe wrap (20%).

EPA also collected five air samples for asbestos analysis, including two blanks, one upwind of the facility, one downwind, and one placed on the contractor collecting asbestos samples. Air samples were non-detect for asbestos at less than 7.01 fibers per square millimeter.

Asbestos is a hazardous substance as defined by section 101(14) of CERCLA.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

IMPD requested assistance from EPA on September 10, 2013. IMPD requested that EPA assess environmental hazards on-site that could interfere with the fire scene investigation. On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Shelly Lam mobilized to the site on September 10th and met with a detective from IMPD. OSC Lam mobilized the Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractor on September 10th and work began on September 11th.

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

On September 12, 2013, EPA conducted the following actions:

- Mobilized the Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor;
- Collected drums and small containers that were safe to move;
- For drums located in significant fire debris and unsafe to move, EPA marked the drums with grease pencils to indicate that the drums had been assessed;
- Removed chemical containers listed in the inventory below. Many of the drums and containers had "Flammable" or "Corrosive" labels;
- Overpacked drums and containers in poor condition with potential to leak;
- Removed mercury switches throughout the structures;
- Staged drums in a Conex box pending disposal. The OSC initially intended to stage drums in a flammable storage building. However, the building had a leaking, wooden roof that presented a threat of release of materials stored inside because (1) weather conditions, e.g. rain, could cause materials in drums to be released and (2) storing flammable materials in a building improperly designed for such presented the threat of fire or explosion;
- Collected one waste liquid sample for pH analysis; and
- Temporarily demobilized from the site.

Container Type	Quantity
55-gallon drums	31
5-gallon containers	61
1-gallon containers	71
<1-gallon containers	35
Bags	3
Totes	1
Compressed gas cylinders	9
Boxes	14
Mercury vials	9
Total	234

IMPD officers provided security 24 hours/day until the fire scene investigation is complete.

The Marion County Public Health Department (MCPHD) continued collecting suspected ACM in downwind residential areas. They issued media releases and fliers instructing residents where to call if they have suspected ACM in their yards.

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

EPA will attempt to identify PRPs and determine if they are financially viable to perform removal actions. The OSC received information that the property is in receivership.

**2.1.4 Progress Metrics**

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>
Pending					

**2.2 Planning Section**

**2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

The following sections detail anticipated activities.

**2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

EPA staged and secured drums in a Conex box on-site, pending disposal. EPA may collect additional samples, if necessary, and provide support as requested to IMPD and Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD).

**2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

EPA will determine if there is a PRP who can conduct removal actions. If there is not a viable PRP, EPA will prepare an Action Memorandum for a fund-lead removal.

**2.2.2 Issues**

None.

**2.3 Logistics Section**

The City of Indianapolis provided logistical support including a rehabilitation unit from IFD.

**2.4 Finance Section**

**2.4.1 Narrative**

EPA verbally issued a Technical Direction Document (TDD) to START on September 10th. OSC Lam used her warrant authority to verbally issue a delivery order to ERRS on September 11th. Contractor costs were estimated.

**Estimated Costs \***

	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Total To Date</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>% Remaining</b>
<b>Extramural Costs</b>				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$15,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$11,000.00	73.33%
TAT/START	\$20,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$5,000.00	25.00%
<b>Intramural Costs</b>				
<b>Total Site Costs</b>	<b>\$35,000.00</b>	<b>\$19,000.00</b>	<b>\$16,000.00</b>	<b>45.71%</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**

**2.5.1 Safety Officer**

OSC Lam is the safety officer for EPA's activities. START also has a site safety officer. Additionally, IMPD and IFD are providing safety support.

**2.5.2 Liaison Officer**

Not applicable (NA)

**2.5.3 Information Officer**

There has been extensive media interest in the fire and media reports of suspected ACM downwind. To date, EPA has not received any requests for media interviews. OSC Lam will coordinate any media interviews with the Office of Public Affairs.

**3. Participating Entities**

**3.1 Unified Command**

EPA worked under IMPD and IFD's command.

### 3.2 Cooperating Agencies

EPA received support from IMPD, IFD, and MCPHD.

### 4. Personnel On Site

Personnel from the following agencies and companies were on-site during the reporting period assisting EPA. Other personnel, outside of EPA's operations, were observed on-site but may not be accounted for below:

Agency/Company	# Personnel
EPA	1
START	3
ERRS	5
IMPD	1
IFD	1
IFD Rehab Support Unit	1
MCPHD	2

### 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
I-65	Interstate 65
IFD	Indianapolis Fire Department
IMPD	Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department
MCPHD	Marion County Public Health Department
NA	Not applicable
NRC	National Response Center
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator
PolRep	Pollution Report
PRP	Potentially Responsible Party
START	Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team
TDD	Technical Direction Document

### 6. Additional sources of information

#### 6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

Additional information is available at [www.epaosc.org/holcombandhoke](http://www.epaosc.org/holcombandhoke).

#### 6.2 Reporting Schedule

OSC Lam will submit the next Pollution Report (PolRep) when EPA receives pending analytical results.

### 7. Situational Reference Materials

NA

POLREP #2 Last Updated 9/12/2013