

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Hightstown High School-Lab Fume Hood - Removal Polrep
Initial and Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region II

Subject: POLREP #1
Initial and Final
Hightstown High School-Lab Fume Hood

Hightstown, NJ

To: Fred Mumford, NJ DEP

From: Eric Daly & Paul Kahn-OSCs

Date: 1/17/2014

Reporting Period:

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	A23W	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	PRP	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	1/17/2014	Start Date:	1/17/2014
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	1/17/2014
CERCLIS ID:	NJD054466164	RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Chemical release inside school laboratory.

1.1.2 Site Description

Hightstown High School is a brick and steel structure with an enrollment of 1,455, Grades 9-12, and 75 staff personnel. Hightstown High School is a four-year comprehensive public high school that serves students in ninth through twelfth grades from three communities in Mercer County and Monmouth County. It is part of the East Windsor Regional School District. Students come from East Windsor Township and Hightstown Borough, both in Mercer County. Students from Roosevelt Borough (a community of 933 residents in Monmouth County) attend the district's high schools as part of a sending/receiving relationship.

1.1.2.1 Location

The high school is located on Leshin Lane in Hightstown, Mercer County, NJ, approximately 20 miles south of New Brunswick, NJ.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

On 01/17/14 at approximately 8:45 AM, a science teacher at the high school opened a fume hood in the science lab. In the fume hood was a mixture of hydrochloric acid and zinc metal which had generated zinc chloride fumes (see attached MSD sheet in the Sit. Ref. Metals section). The fume hood was opened without the exhaust being turned on which released the fumes into the room where one teacher inhaled the fumes. Three teachers were exposed to the fumes and were taken to the hospital due to dizziness. A fourth teacher fell and hit her head during evacuation; she was also taken to the hospital.

An evacuation of the school was initiated at approx. 9:00 AM and the building was deemed cleared by 9:30 AM. Students were loaded onto buses and transported home. The school was locked-down until the start of school next Tuesday.

Hightstown Fire Chief (Chief Scott Jenkins), Hightstown Police, NJ DEP (Patrick DiGangi), Local HazMat team, West Windsor Township Health Department Official (Douglas Davidson), US EPA (Eric Daly) and Channel 6 News (Phila.) were on the scene. PARS Environmental Inc. was contracted to remediate the lab.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

OSC Daly responded to the incident on 01/17/14 and met up with school official and emergency responders. Hightstown Fire Department performed the initial entry and the laboratory was cleared of fumes via the fume hood being turned on. PARS Environmental Inc. was contracted to remove the actual chemicals from the hood. The emergency responders all determined that the scene was stabilized later that afternoon on 01/17/14.

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>
Zinc Chloride	Air	Not Documented	N/A	Fume Hood turned on	Material removed from laboratory

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

No information available at this time.

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

6.1 Internet location of additional information is the web site for the East Windsor NJ school district:

<http://www.eastwindsorregionalschools.com/ewrs/>

NJDOH Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet for Zinc Chloride:

<http://nj.gov/health/eoh/rtkweb/documents/fs/2030.pdf>

ABC Channel 6 News Article:

<http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=9397197>

6.2 Reporting Schedule

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.