

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Integrated Waste Management Tire Fire - Removal Polrep
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region II

Subject: **POLREP #1**
Deployment of Site Assessment Team
Integrated Waste Management Tire Fire
Penuelas, PR
Latitude: 18.0099907 Longitude: -66.7209286

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From: Paul Kahn, Keli Lucarino, On-Scene Coordinators
Date: 3/17/2014
Reporting Period:

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 Assessment
NPL Status: Non NPL	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date: 3/17/2014	Start Date: 3/15/2014
Demob Date:	Completion Date:
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification:
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

Tire fire at defunct tire shredding facility.

1.1.2 Site Description

The Site is located in a remote area bordered by tall hills on two sides. It is located

approximately 2 miles from the Caribbean Ocean.

1.1.2.1 Location

The Site is located on a dirt side road off Rt. 385 approximately 10 miles north west of Ponce.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

There is a pile of shredded tires approximately 60 feet wide by 150 feet long and 60 feet high had caught fire in August, 2008. The fire was partially controlled by covering the pile with dirt. Subsequently, the fire smoldered until fissures in the pile began to allow air into the pile. The current potential threat is that the now-smoldering pile of shredded tires is on the verge of re-igniting.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Air monitoring and sampling data is still being acquired and no preliminary results are available. However, there is ample data/information on emissions from tire fires. See attached information in the Reference Section. Visible inspection of the top of the smoldering pile showed deposition of an oil-like substance, similar to condensation, on the edge of the fissures that have opened up on the pile. This suggests that an oil component of the smoke plumes is condensing on the cooler outer edges of the fissures. This would typically be polynuclear aromatic compounds such as benzo- and anthro- pyrenes, both which are carcinogenic substances.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

The OSC has mobilized 5 ERT/SERAS staff to the Site to set up air monitoring uploaded to the VIPER system. Sampling of air, soil and water media has begun as well.

The OSC has contacted the Chief of the local Fire Department and a meeting has been set up to discuss the situation on 3/21/14.

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

The OSC has met with one of the former owners/operators (PRP) of the tire processing business and obtained access to perform the current activities. The PRP has offered his willingness to cooperate with EPA to resolve the problem.

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

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

ERT will continue air monitoring until they are demobed from the Site.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

ERT will complete air sampling using data RAMs and SUMA canisters on or about 3/21/14.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Continue with air monitoring and media sampling.

2.2.2 Issues

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

n/a

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

PR Environmental Quality Board

Penuelas Fire Department

PR National Guard

4. Personnel On Site

One EPA OSC

One tech with Weston Solutions, Inc., an EPA technical assistance contractor.

Two EPA/ERT personnel and 3 ERT contractor personnel.

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.

POLREP #1 Last Updated 3/26/2014