

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Mercury Face Creams Sites - Removal Polrep
Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IX

Subject: POLREP #3
Final POLREP
Mercury Face Creams Sites

Signal Hill, CA

To:
From: Robert Wise, OSC
Date: 9/4/2014
Reporting Period: 04/22/2014 - 09/04/2014

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:
Response Authority: CERCLA	Response Type: PRP Oversight
Response Lead: EPA	Incident Category: Removal Action
NPL Status: Non NPL	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date: 4/3/2014	Start Date: 4/3/2014
Demob Date: 4/22/2014	Completion Date: 9/4/2014
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification:
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

This site consists of multiple residential homes contaminated with inorganic mercury due to the resident's use of a mercury tainted face creams.

1.1.2 Site Description

The site are single or multi-family residential dwellings.

1.1.2.1 Location

See POLREP Nos. 1 and 2.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Face creams and other cosmetics tainted with inorganic mercury possibly originating in Mexico has resulted in multiple cases of mercury poisoning including a 20 month old child. The cream is believed to contain inorganic mercury salts most likely mercuric chloride or sulfide. The use of the cream has resulted in the contamination of personal effects above the 3000 ng/m² Agency for Toxic Substance Disease Registry (ATSDR) unrestricted release limit for personal effects.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

See POLREP Nos. 1 and 2.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

The EPA with START assistance has provided technical and scientific assistance to OCoHCA and Los Angeles County Public Health (LACoPH) in the assessment of residential dwellings contaminated with inorganic mercury salts originating from homemade face creams.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

EPA has not participated in any additional screenings. At this time all screenings are being conducted by OCoEH and LACoPH and HHMD. No further EPA assistance is required at this time.

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

The source of the face cream's is unknown at this time. FDA Criminal Investigation Division is investigating to determine the source of the materials.

2.2 Planning Section

The generic QASP prepared by OSC Wise has been forwarded to the participating agencies for use at their discretion.

2.3 Logistics Section

NA

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

All information management up to this point has been handled by OCoHCA. EPA Public Affairs has been advised and has offered assistance to Orange County.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

OCoHCA and LACoPH are the lead agencies in their respective counties. EPA is provided technical assistance to both counties.

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

1. ATSDR
2. FDA
3. U.S. Attorney's Office
4. CADPH
5. DTSC
6. ATSDR

ATSDR and CADPH are coordinating with agencies in the border region to reach out to the agencies on the Mexican side of the border. OSC Wise has requested the lead OSC for the Border 2020 Taskforce notify the Mexican government agencies on the Taskforce of the issue associated with the facial products.

4. Personnel On Site

NA

5. Definition of Terms

ATSDR: Agency for Toxic Substance Disease Registry
CADPH: California Department of Public Health
CDC: Centers for Disease Control
DTSC: Department of Toxic Substance Control
EPA: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FDA: Food and Drug Administration
HHMD: Los Angeles County Fire Department Health Hazardous Materials Division
LACoPH: Los Angeles County Public Health
ng/m² : nanograms/cubic meter of air
OCoHCA: Orange County Health Care Agency
OSC: On-Scene Coordinator
START: Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

www.epaosc.org/Hgcream

6.2 Reporting Schedule

This is the final POLREP.

7. Situational Reference Materials

Additional materials can be found on the "Documents" section of this web site.