

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Sycamore Point Mercury - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IV

Subject: POLREP #2
624 Apache Trail
Sycamore Point Mercury

Woodstock, GA
Latitude: 34.1514970 Longitude: -84.5619190

To:
From: Stephen Ball, OSC
Date: 2/24/2015
Reporting Period: 2/22/2015 - 2/26/2015

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date: 2/23/2015
Response Authority: CERCLA	Response Type: Emergency
Response Lead: EPA	Incident Category: Removal Action
NPL Status: Non NPL	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date: 2/18/2015	Start Date: 2/18/2015
Demob Date:	Completion Date:
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification:
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response to an uncontrolled release of Mercury in multiple locations.

1.1.2 Site Description

See POLREP #1 for Site description.

1.1.2.1 Location

See POLREP #1 for location information

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

See POLREP #1 for description of threat.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

See POLREP #1 for information

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

02/22/2015

The OSC contacted the owner of the residence located on Apache trail (source house), on Sunday morning to discuss the mercury spill that was reported in her home. The OSC explained the dangers of Mercury contamination in a home. Property owner agreed to have EPA come and test the air inside the residence. The OSC and START mobilized to the residence and observed visible beads on the road in front of the house, in the driveway leading to the residence and in the residences yard. The air was sampled at the front entrance doorway with readings exceeding the mercury vapor analyzers detection limit. Mercury vapors concentrations exceeded 1 mg/m3 (the maximum detection limit of the Jerome), which is 1,000 times EPA's action level for mercury in a residence. OSC Ball explained this to the property owners and worked with them to achieve temporary relocation. They stated they would stay with a relative for the duration of the cleanup at their residence. The property owners also granted written access for EPA to perform a clean-up after stating that they would not be able to perform the cleanup themselves. ERRS was mobilized that night to begin recovery of visible beads outside the residence.

02/23/2015

Clean-up operations outside the home continued. ERRS focused on removal of beads from the road and

worked their way towards the house. Several methods were used including a mercury vacuum, wet/dry vacuums, syringes, and manual excavation when necessary. Approximately 6 pounds of mercury have been recovered from the roadway and drainage ditch area thus far. Visible microbeads still exist on the road and driveway. Additional beads have been uncovered under the residences' deck.

CICs mobilized to the scene to assist with voluntary screening of the surrounding residences in the neighborhood. No mercury vapors were detected in any of the adjacent residences. CIC operations are ongoing.

02/24/2015

On Tuesday about an inch of snow blanketed the work area at Apache Trail. Crews worked to melt the snow on the road and driveway to apply DeconGel. DeconGel is a technology used primarily in remediation of radiation contamination, but has been successfully utilized to remove mercury contamination from tile, grout, and concrete surfaces. The technology was selected as the best alternative to remove micro beads of mercury from the pits and divots of the asphalt road and concrete driveway. The mercury vacuum had little success in removal of these micro beads. Winter weather conditions including snow and low temperatures hindered site operations throughout the day.

CICs continued to conduct voluntary screening of surrounding residences. Thus far no mercury vapors have been detected in any of the surrounding neighbor's homes. Most neighbors were contacted. An informational brochure will be mailed to remaining residents. A complete list of homes visited and the results will be available in the documents section of this webpage.

At the owners request OSC Ball and START mobilized to the Smith's residence to perform air screening for mercury vapors. Mr. Smith indicated that he had performed his own clean-up. He had removed almost all of the carpet in the house, the washer and 3 boxes of towels and clothing that mostly belonged to his son. He also indicated that some clothes had already been disposed of in a dumpster. Mercury vapors concentrations in Mr. Smith's residence averaged approximately 1,000 ng/m3. The removed carpet and 3 boxes of garments tested from 25,000ng/m3 to >50,000 ng/m3. The OSC recommended removing the remaining carpet from the one room where slightly elevated mercury vapors were detected and to continue to heat and vent the residence for a week. The OSC also stated that all of the carpet and the 3 boxes of garments should be disposed of after being bagged. Mr. Smith agreed to perform the recommended actions. He will continue to coordinate with OSC Ball.

OSC Ball contacted Mr. Mortus and arranged for testing for mercury vapors in his residence. .

02/25/2015

Operations at Apache Trail were suspended on Wednesday due to inclement weather.

The OSC and START mobilized to residence located at 510 Cove Rd. and conducted air monitoring for mercury vapor in the residence. Mercury vapors concentrations ranged from 20,000 ng/m3 to a high of 40,000 ng/m3 in one room. The OSC explained EPA's action levels to the residents and recommended temporary relocation based on the detection of elevated mercury vapors in the air. The resident agreed that EPA should do a clean-up at the house and that he would relocate his family in the next day or two. The family does not own the residence but would notify the rental company of the situation. OSC Ball is coordinating access for the clean-up.

02/26/2015

Operations at Apache Trail were suspended on Thursday due to inclement weather.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

See above section for response actions taken 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>
Mercury waste	solid	1 rolloff			Landfill

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Continue clean-up actions at contaminated homes
Continue CIC coordination with community
Continue to coordinate access at additional properties

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Gain access, assess, and if necessary remediate mercury contaminated properties.
Continue Mercury recovery activities
Continue cleanup actions in the contaminated residences

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

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

EPA

GA EPD

GA Dept of Public Health

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

Cherokee County Schools

American Red Cross

ATSDR

4. Personnel On Site

OSC - 1

START - 2

ERRS - 6

5. Definition of Terms

ATSDR - Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry

EPA - Environmental Protection Agency

OSC - On- Scene Coordinator

GA EPD - Georgia Environmental Protection Division

NCP - National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan

NRC - National Response Center

CFR - Code of Federal Regulations

RP - Responsible Party

NOFI - Notice of Federal Interest

EMA - Emergency Management Agency

ERRS - Emergency Rapid Response Service

CERCLA - Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act

FPN - Federal Project Number

6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.