U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Old Barwick Mill Plant Fire - Removal Polrep
Initial and Final Removal Polrep

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IV

Subject: **POLREP #1**
Initial & Final POLREP - Emergency Response
Old Barwick Mill Plant Fire
B47K
LaFayette, GA
Latitude: 34.6980216 Longitude: -85.2872401

To: James Webster, USEPA R4 ERRPB
Jerry Campbell, GAEPD

From: Brian Englert, Federal On-Scene Coordinator
Date: 11/30/2015
Reporting Period: 11/14/2015 to 11/19/2015

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	B47K	**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:	11/14/2015	**Start Date:**	11/14/2015
Demob Date:	11/19/2015	**Completion Date:**	11/19/2015
CERCLIS ID:		**RCRIS ID:**	
ERNS No.:		**State Notification:**	11/14/2016
FPN#:		**Reimbursable Account #:**	

1.1.1 Incident Category

The Site is an Emergency Response to a fire in a residential area

1.1.2 Site Description

The Site is the location of a fire at a former textile dying plant which is currently being used as a warehouse. There is one business operating in the warehouse and it is reported that the business reclaims materials from the carpet industry in North Georgia and had a significant number of roll offs and chemical totes onsite. In the evening of November 14, 2015 the building caught fire. A significant amount of fire fighting runoff has impacted the nearby Chattooga River.

1.1.2.1 Location

The Site is located at 412 McLemore Street, Lafayette, Walker County, GA in a mixed industrial and residential area. There are additional business immediately to the north and south of the Site and an airport to the south of the Site. There are residential neighborhoods immediately to the east and west of the Site. The Site is bordered by the Chattooga River.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Initial reports from first responders to the incident indicate that there may have been two above ground storage tanks (ASTs) involved in the fire; One 10,000 gallon tank of oil and one 10,000 gallon tank of a latex product. Additionally, drums of chemicals and other materials were being stored within the burning warehouse. Post response investigation indicated only one 10,000 AST, which formerly contained oil, was not involved in the fire and containers of unidentified chemicals/materials within the warehouse were consumed in the fire or damaged.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

On November 14, 2015, personnel from the Chattooga & Chickamauga Railway reported being advised to avoid LaFayette GA due to a large warehouse fire in the center of town (NRC Report 1133453 and 1133436). Initial reports obtained by EPA Region 4's phone duty officer indicated that there were two 10,000 gallon tanks of oil, one 10,000 gallon tank of a latex product, drums of chemicals and other materials involved and that local officials were requesting EPA assistance. EPA OSC Englert arrived on scene late in the evening of November 14th.

Information obtained from the owner of the business operating in the warehouse (Ashgan Products LLC) indicates that the business reclaimed used material from the textile industry and stored large amounts of calcium carbonate, polypropylene chips, polyethylene chips, aluminum sulfate, textile dyes, and polyurethane foam in the building. Additional information obtained from members of Unified Command indicates that the building is an old textile dying facility and may contain additional unidentified chemicals left over from textile dying operations. A significant amount of firefighting runoff can be observed entering the nearby Chattooga River.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

EPA mobilized two On-Scene Coordinators, four Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractors and Regional Readiness Center staff to the Site. The following actions occurred during this reporting period.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

Saturday November 14th

The Lafayette City Fire Department requested EPA assistance at a large warehouse fire in the center of town (NRC Report 1133453 and 1133436). Initial reports from the Fire Chief indicated that there were two 10,000 gallon tanks of oil, one 10,000 gallon tank of a latex product, drums of chemicals and other materials involved. EPA OSC Englert and Personnel from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD) arrived on scene late in the evening of November 14th and integrated into Unified Command with the Lafayette Fire Department and City Officials.

OSC Englert served the owner of the building, and a business operating inside the building, Ashgan Products LLC with a notice of federal interest. OSC Englert obtained verbal access from the property owner to go on the property and take samples. Information obtained from the owner of the business indicates that Ashgan Products LLC reclaimed used material from the textile industry and that the building contains large amounts of calcium carbonate, polypropylene chips, polyethylene chips, aluminum sulfate, textile dyes, and polyurethane foam. Additional information obtained from members of Unified Command indicates that the building is an old textile dying facility and may contain additional unknowns left over from textile dying operations.

During the night of November 14, 2015 the fire burned out of control and firefighters worked to suppress the spread of the fire. The above ground storage tanks containing oil were threatened but were not impacted by the fire as firefighters focused efforts on preventing the spread of fire to these tanks.

Representatives from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources documented that firefighting runoff water impacted a tributary to the Chattooga River 135 feet (41 meters) from the Site. A fish kill was observed in the impacted stream. The Natural Resource Trustees were notified.

The responsible party hired environmental clean-up contractors and constructed hay and earthen reinforced berms to contain firefighting water run-off to prevent runoff into the Chattooga River. Blue water accumulation was documented by first responders within a concrete lined structure on the north end of the Old Barwick Mill building and within a concrete lined substructure under a neighboring facility to the east across the river, Auto Custom Carpets, Incorporated.

The response contractor retained by the owner of the Old Barwick Mill used vacuum tanker trucks to shuttle firefighting runoff water from the earthen berm area on the Old Barwick Mill property next to the Chattooga River and transported the water to an additional property located approximately 9 miles to the west in Chickamauga, Georgia off of Highway 341. The property also contained a concrete-lined substructure that would accommodate the anticipated large volume of water generated at the Old Barwick Mill property in LaFayette.

EPA START contactors have mobilized to the Site and deployed VIPER and are performing remote air monitoring. Data RAMs and AreaRAE's have been deployed at three stationary air monitoring locations and one mobile air monitoring station. The mobile air monitoring station will be used to perform mobile air monitoring in nearby residential neighborhoods.

Sunday November 15th

OSC Carter Williamson has mobilized to the Site to provide additional oversite. On midday November 15th, as previously burning areas of the fire began to smolder, EPA began to observe elevated particulate readings. It is believed these readings were observed due to incomplete combustion occurring in inaccessible smoldering areas of the fire. Due to elevated particulate readings, local officials used reverse 911 and social media to recommend that residents within a 0.5 miles radius to the fire remain indoors. Fire fighters observed a purple dye in firefighting runoff. It is suspected that this is dye left over from textile dying operations which previously took place in the plant. Stationary air monitoring locations have been adjusted to account for changing wind direction. OSC Englert demobilized in the evening of November 15th.

Monday November 16th

LaFayette and assisting fire departments have had difficulty accessing a portion of the smoldering areas due to a fallen roof which is covering smoldering debris. Excavators are being used to clear sections of the roof so that these debris can be accessed. EPA START contractors continue to perform air monitoring with both mobile and stationary air monitoring equipment. Local officials have continue to use reverse 911 and social media to advise residents to remain indoors when high PM2.5 has been observed.

Tuesday November 17th to Thursday November 19th

Due to periodic elevated PM2.5 readings on several occasions since Sunday November 15th to Tuesday November 17th local officials have used reverse 911 and social media to advise residents within a 0.5 mile radius to remain in their homes.
LaFayette Fire fighters continued to battle the fire throughout the night and all day Tuesday November 17th extinguishing almost all of the smoldering debris and pockets of resistance. Air quality monitoring revealed a marked decrease in particulate matter and VOCs were well below action levels. In addition to monitoring for VOCs, CO, H2S and PM2.5; START contractors have performed air monitoring for asbestos.

Asbestos samples were collected near one industrial and three residential locations. Samples were analyzed by phase contrast microscopy (PCM) using NIOSH Method 7400. PCM test for both non-asbestos and asbestos fibers and gives results for total fibers detected. This was done in accordance with OSWER directive 9200.0-68. Total fiber results were well below the residential exposure level of 0.001 f/cc as outlined in OSWER directive 9200.0-68 so no additional asbestos sampling was performed.

EPA, GAEPD, local officials and the responsible parties continue to contend with potentially contaminated runoff from the mill firefighting activities. ATSDR and a Superfund Community Involvement Coordinator deployed to the site and conducted a Public Health Availability Session at the City of LaFayette Library and met with school administrators, local physicians and interviewed with members of the local press. 24 hour air monitoring continued throughout the night to insure that all PM and VOC levels return to pre-event conditions. OSC Williamson demobilized on November 19th. Both the City of LaFayette and GA EPD have requested additional EPA assistance with continued oversite of ongoing cleanup efforts by the owner of the building and business which operated inside the building.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)
Enforcement activities have been initiated and are ongoing.
2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	*Medium*	*Quantity*	*Manifest #*	*Treatment*	*Disposal*

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities
Emergency Response actvities are concluding and the Site will be referred to EPA Region 4 for potential removal oversight.
2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities
No further operations are anticipated by EPA Emergency Response.
2.2.1.2 Next Steps
It is anticipated that additional removal activities will take place conducted by the responsible party with EPA oversight.
2.2.2 Issues
No new information to report in this section at this time.

2.3 Logistics Section

EPA OSCs, START and RRC personnel have demobilized.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer
EPA OSCs and START are providing safety support at this time.
2.5.2 Liaison Officer
No additional information to report in this section at this time.
2.5.3 Information Officer
Additional information is being received from personnel onscene as it becomes available.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command
City of Lafayette, City of Lafayette Fire Department, GA EPD, EPA, Building Owner and Management from Ashgan Products LLC.
3.2 Cooperating Agencies

EPA Region 4

GA EPD

GA Fish and Wildlife

City of Lafayette

City of Lafayette Fire Department and neighboring Fire Departments

Local Law Enforcement

4. Personnel On Site

Two EPA On-Scene Coordinators,

Four Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractors,

One Regional Readiness Center Contractor,

GA EPD personnel

GA Fish and Wildlife personnel

City of Lafayette Town Manager and staff

City of Lafayette Fire Department and neighboring Fire Departments

Potentially Responsible Parties

5. Definition of Terms

ACM – Asbestos Containing Material or Substances

Asbestos - Refers to a set of six naturally occurring fibrous minerals. Asbestos has six primary sub-classifications: chrysotile, crocidolite, amosite, anthophyllite, tremolite, and actinolite. Among these, chrysotile and amosite asbestos are the most common.

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency Region 4

ERRPB – Emergency Response, Removal and Prevention Branch (formerly ERRB)

ER – Emergency Response

ERRS – Emergency Rapid Response Service (Environmental Restoration, Inc. & CMC, Incorporated)

f/cc – Fibers per cubic centimeter

GAEPD - Georgia Environmental Protection Division

OSC – Federal On-Scene Coordinator

PRP – Potential Responsible Party

RML – Regional Removal Management Level

RSE – Removal Site Evaluation

SOSC – State On-Scene Coordinator

START – Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (Tetra Tech, Inc)

TSI - Thermal System Insulation

TSS – Region 4 Technical Services Section (Resource & Scientific Integrity Branch/ REG 4 Superfund Division

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

Please see www.epaosc.org/oldbarwickmillfire

6.2 Reporting Schedule

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.