

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Pilot Mountain Tire Fire - Removal Polrep  
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region IV

**Subject:** **POLREP #1**  
**Initial**  
**Pilot Mountain Tire Fire**  
  
**Pilot Mountain, NC**  
**Latitude: 36.3853130 Longitude: -80.4606450**

**To:**  
**From:** Kenneth Rhame, OSC  
**Date:** 1/13/2016  
**Reporting Period:** 1/12/2016 to 1/14/2016

**1. Introduction**

**1.1 Background**

<b>Site Number:</b>	B47T	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	1/12/2016	<b>Start Date:</b>	1/12/2016
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

**1.1.1 Incident Category**  
Emergency Response

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)

**1.1.2 Site Description**

The property is a former knitting mill constructed in the 1960s. The property consists of approximately 28 acres. The New River Tire & Recycling facility accepts whole tires and processes them through a mechanical shredder. The final product consists of rubber (2 x 2 inches) or smaller in size and stockpiled in the warehouse until sold and transported off-site. The site is permitted to store 130,000 tires. The storm drains on-site discharge to a unnamed tributary to Toms Creek. The Pilot Mountain Public Water Intake is located approximately 1 mile downstream from the Site on Toms Creek. The Site is located in a mixed commercial / residential neighborhood.

**1.1.2.1 Location**

312 E Hwy 52 Bypass

Pilot Mountain, Surry County, NC

**1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

Run-off from the tire fire impacting surface waters in the unnamed tributary to Toms Creek, threatening a public drinking water intake approximately 1 mile downstream.

Emissions from the burning tires potentially containing contaminants (various hazardous substances) associated with burning tires affecting neighboring residents and businesses. A Elementary School located within two blocks and a High School located within 1/2 mile of the Site.

**1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

Warehouse containing tires was fully engulfed, large amounts of smoke, and a discolored discharge at the stormwater outfall.

**2. Current Activities**

**2.1 Operations Section**

**2.1.1 Narrative**

In the early hours of 1/12/2016, a tire recycling facility (New River Tire & Recycling) in Pilot Mountain NC became engulfed in flames. Local responders notified the North Carolina Emergency Operations Center (NCEOC) and the National Response Center (NRC) to request EPA assistance. EPA mobilized a On-Scene Coordinator to assist.

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

EPA advised against the use of water for fire suppression. Ongoing communication with state (NC Department of Environmental Quality, NC Department of Health and Human Services) local response agencies (County Health Department, School Superintendent, Public Utilities Director) to ensure that the public's concerns are addressed.

1/12/2016- Mobilized START contractors to conduct initial air monitoring for VOCs and collect surface water samples. Mobilized ERRS contractors and staged heavy equipment on site.

1/13/2016- START conducted particulate air monitoring and collected air samples for laboratory analysis of asbestos content. START collected surface water samples downstream of the Site. Mobilized ERRS contractors to use heavy equipment to remove roof and other debris to access burning tires. ERRS will use heavy equipment and "dunk tanks" to submerge and extinguish burning debris to reduce air emissions and run-off.

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

Issued CERCLA Letter of Federal Interest (NOFI) to property owner.

Obtained Access Authorization from property owner.

#### 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

Continue to coordinate with state and local response agencies.

##### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Air Monitoring/Sampling

Surface Water Sampling

Access burning tires - utilize "dunk tanks" to submerge and extinguish burning tires to minimize run-off

Segregate Waste

Characterize Waste for Proper Transport and Disposal

Transport and Disposal

##### 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

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**

No information available at this time.

**7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.