

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
McMurray Road Chemical Removal - Removal Polrep
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region X

Subject: **POLREP #1**
Assessment and Initiation of Removal Action
McMurray Road Chemical Removal

Tacoma, WA
Latitude: 47.2816230 Longitude: -122.3872860

To:
From: Jeffrey Fowlow, On Scene Coordinator
Date: 1/22/2016
Reporting Period: 1/20/2016 - 1/22/2016

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 Action
NPL Status: Non NPL	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date: 1/21/2016	Start Date: 1/21/2016
Demob Date:	Completion Date:
CERCLIS ID: WAN001001501	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification:
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response and Time Critical Removal.

1.1.2 Site Description

1.1.2.1 Location

The site is located on a residentially-zoned property in the northern portion of the City of Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington. The site is one of few developed properties located along McMurray Road NE in a wooded ravine sitting just upslope and approximately 300 yards from a more commercial/industrial waterfront area on the east side of Commencement Bay (Puget Sound). There is a creek that flows westward through the property terminating in the Puget Sound. There is a City of Tacoma Police Department firing range to the south of the subject property with a more substantial residential neighborhood sitting at the top of McMurray Road.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The residence is currently abandoned, unsecure, and has been a recent target of burglary and vandalism. The former resident left behind four buildings containing large numbers of containers of chemicals, many of which are marked with factory labels or other markings indicating they are hazardous substances as defined by CERCLA. From an initial assessment, chemicals in each of the following categories were identified in the first building inspected: flammable liquids, oxidizing substances, toxic substances, corrosive materials, and other miscellaneous hazardous materials. It was observed that some chemicals had already been released through spills or container failure and that the improper storage and condition of other chemicals posed a high risk of future releases. Of the chemicals that could be observed directly, many were stored in deteriorating containers, stored next to incompatible chemicals (i.e. substances that will react when coming in contact with one another), stored in dilapidated and insecure buildings, and/or were improperly labeled. Many more chemicals appeared to be in containers of various types either on the floor or mixed together in piles of miscellaneous solid waste on the ground. All these conditions in combination with a precarious security situation and the proximity to other residences, businesses and a tributary to the Puget Sound created the need for immediate action.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

An initial assessment found releases of chemicals to the environment from improperly managed containers with numerous other containers left behind in varying conditions. Although an exhaustive survey of chemicals was not possible during the initial assessment numerous CERCLA hazardous substances were observed to be present including:

- Potassium Hydroxide
- Paradichloro Benzene
- Ferrous Sulfate
- P-dichlorobenzene
- Sodium Fluoride

- Ferric Sulfate
- Cupric Sulfate
- Potassium Chromate
- Phenolphthalein
- Zinc Nitrate
- Nitric Acid
- Antimony Trichloride

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

On January 21, 2016, EPA and its emergency response contractors mobilized to the site and began establishing a site safety plan and operation approach to stabilizing the site and preparing chemicals for safe transport and disposal. The site was divided into four main buildings. Each building was screened for potential safety hazards before work began. Building number three was identified as an appropriate sorting area and the team began setting up necessary equipment. The morning of January 22 EPA contractors began the process of carefully gathering abandoned containers from building number two and sorting them into hazard categories to be overpacked into drums for safe transport and disposal. Unknown chemicals are set aside for hazard categorization conducted on site by EPA START contractors. It is expected that building number two will require at least two days to complete and yield at least 3,000 individual containers of hazardous chemicals needing disposal. Once building two is complete, the team will apply the same approach to the remaining buildings.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

Site safety preparations, sorting and characterization of abandoned chemical containers, overpacking of containers into drums, hazard categorization of unknown chemicals.

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

The former resident and owner of the chemicals is deceased.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Totals as of Saturday, January 23, 2016:

Date	Hazard Class	Hazard Class Description	Container Total	Overpack Total	Date Total	Date Total
1/22/20153	Flammable Liquid		163	5		
1/22/20156.1	Toxic and Infectious Substance		995	12		
1/22/20158A	Corrosive Acid		175	3		
1/22/20158B	Oxidizer, Toxic and Infectious Substance, Corrosive		53	1		
1/22/20158(3)	Corrosive and Flammable		50	1		
1/22/20159	Miscellaneous		366	4	1802	26
1/23/20153	Flammable Liquid		157	2		
1/23/20154.1	Corrosive and Flammable		23	1		
1/23/20154.2	Miscellaneous		14	1		
1/23/20155.1	Oxidizer		212	2		
1/24/20155.2	Organic Peroxides		33	1		
1/23/20156.1	Toxic and Infectious Substance		523	7		
1/23/20158A	Corrosive Acid		184	4		
1/23/20158B	Corrosive Base		110	2		
1/23/20158(6.1)	Corrosive, Toxic and Infectious Substance		25	1		
1/23/20158A(5.1)	Corrosive, Oxidizer		5	1		
1/23/20159	Miscellaneous		1209	9	2495	31
Total to date					4297	57

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Continued sorting and overpacking of abandoned chemical containers. Increased need for hazard categorization is expected over the next few days as the team gains access to areas currently blocked by containers, solid waste, and other debris.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

A continuation of current activities and approach.

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

2.5.1 Safety Officer

Eric Lindeman - START

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

2.5.3 Information Officer

Suzanne Skadowski - EPA Region 10

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

Washington Department of Ecology

Tacoma Police Department

Pierce County Sherriff's Department

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

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4. Personnel On Site

EPA OSC - 2

START - 4

ERRS - 10

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.