

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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region X

Subject: POLREP #2
Progress
McMurray Road Chemical Removal
Tacoma, WA
Latitude: 47.2816230 Longitude: -122.3872860

To: Calvin Terada, EPA Region 10 (POLREP List)

From: Jeffrey Fowlow, On Scene Coordinator

Date: 1/26/2016

Reporting Period: 1/23/2016 - 1/25/2016

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, unsecured, 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.

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.

Building 3 removal operations began 1/22/2016. Building 3 is being used to bulk over pack containers for transport and disposal.

Building 2 removal operations began 1/22/2016 and completed 1/25/2016. A total of 4,855 containers were put into 69 over packs, of which there were 51 unknown containers categorized. Building 2 is now being used to stage unknown containers to be categorized.

Building 4 removal operations began 1/23/2016; debris removal, staging of unknown containers for hazard categorization, and transferring known containers to over pack station in Building 3.

Building 1 removal operations began 1/25/2016; debris removal.

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 Monday, January 25, 2016:

Date	Hazard Class	Hazard Class Description	Container Total	Overpack Total	Date Total	Date Total
1/22/2016	3	Flammable Liquid	163	5		
1/22/2016	6.1	Toxic and Infectious Substance	995	12		
1/22/2016	8A	Corrosive Acid	174	2		
1/22/2016	8B	Oxidizer, Toxic and Infectious Substance, Corrosive	53	1		
1/22/2016	8(3)	Corrosive and Flammable	86	2		
1/22/2016	9	Miscellaneous	517	4	1988	26
1/23/2016	3	Flammable Liquid	157	2		
1/23/2016	4.1	Corrosive and Flammable	83	2		
1/23/2016	4.2	Miscellaneous	14	1		
1/23/2016	5.1	Oxidizer	212	2		
1/23/2016	5.2	Organic Peroxides	33	1		
1/23/2016	6.1	Toxic and Infectious Substance	523	7		
1/23/2016	8A	Corrosive Acid	184	4		
1/23/2016	8A(5.1)	Corrosive, Oxidizer	5	1		
1/23/2016	8(6.1)	Corrosive, Toxic and Infectious Substance	25	1		
1/23/2016	8B	Corrosive Base	110	2		
1/23/2016	9	Miscellaneous	1209	9	2555	32
1/25/2016	4.3	Dangerous When Wet	35	9		
1/25/2016	5.1	Oxidizer	114	1		
1/25/2016	5.1(8A)	Oxidizer, Corrosive Acid	4	1		
1/25/2016	6.1	Toxic and Infectious Substance	127	4		
1/25/2016	8A	Corrosive Acid	128	4		
1/25/2016	8A(5.1)	Corrosive Acid, Oxidizer	7	1		
1/25/2016	8B	Corrosive Base	44	1		
1/25/2016	8B(3)	Corrosive Base, Flammable Liquid	36	1		
1/25/2016	9	Miscellaneous	547	7	1042	29
				Running Total	5585	87

Hazard categorization totals as of 1/25/2016

Date	Unknown Containers Categorized	Building Number
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1/22/2016	9	3
1/23/2016	51	2
1/23/2016	12	3
1/25/2016	107	3

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Continued sorting and overpacking of abandoned chemical containers. Continue hazard categorization of unknown chemical containers.

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 Nuchims - START

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

2.5.3 Information Officer

Suzanne Skadowski - EPA Region 10

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

Washington Department of Ecology

Tacoma Police Department

Pierce County Sherriff's Department

4. Personnel On Site

EPA OSC - 1

START - 6

ERRS - 11

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.