

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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region X

Subject: **POLREP #4**
Final
McMurray Road Chemical Removal

Tacoma, WA
Latitude: 47.2816230 Longitude: -122.3872860

To:
From: Jeffrey Fowlow, On Scene Coordinator
Date: 1/29/2016
Reporting Period: 1/28/2016 - 1/29/2016

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: 1/29/2016	Completion Date: 1/29/2016
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.

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.

- All chemical containers have been removed from the 4 buildings and over packed into DOT shippable containers for transport and disposal off site.
- Total of 509 unknown chemicals were categorized by field chemists.
- Total of 9,513 chemical containers into 200 over packs were shipped off-site for disposal.
- All materials were removed from the site by close of business 1/29/2016.
- All personal property has been returned to its original location, and all buildings have been secured in the same manner in which they were prior to EPA arrival on site.

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

Final container and over pack counts:

Date	Hazard Class	Hazard Class Description	Container Total	Overpack Total	Date Total	Date Total
1/22/20163		Flammable Liquid	163	5		
1/22/20166.1		Toxic and Infectious Substance	995	12		
1/22/20168A		Corrosive Acid	174	2		
1/22/20168B		Corrosive Base, Toxic and Infectious Substance, Corrosive	53	1		
1/22/20168(3)		Corrosive, Flammable	86	2		
1/22/20169		Miscellaneous	517	4	1988	26
1/23/20163		Flammable Liquid	157	2		
1/23/20164.1		Corrosive and Flammable	83	2		
1/23/20164.2		Spontaneously Combustible	14	1		
1/23/20165.1		Oxidizer	212	2		
1/23/20165.2		Organic Peroxides	33	1		
1/23/20166.1		Toxic and Infectious Substance	523	7		
1/23/20168A		Corrosive Acid	184	4		
1/23/20168A(5.1)		Corrosive Acid, Oxidizer	5	1		
1/23/20168(6.1)		Corrosive, Toxic and Infectious Substance	25	1		
1/23/20168B		Corrosive Base	110	2		
1/23/20169		Miscellaneous	1209	9	2555	32
1/25/20164.3		Dangerous When Wet	35	9		
1/25/20165.1		Oxidizer	114	1		
1/25/20165.1(8A)		Oxidizer, Corrosive Acid	4	1		
1/25/20166.1		Toxic and Infectious Substance	127	4		
1/25/20168A		Corrosive Acid	128	4		
1/25/20168A(5.1)		Corrosive Acid, Oxidizer	7	1		
1/25/20168B		Corrosive Base	44	1		
1/25/20168B(3)		Corrosive Base, Flammable Liquid	36	1		
1/25/20169		Miscellaneous	547	7	1042	29
1/26/20163		Flammable Liquid	20	1		
1/26/20163(6.1)		Flammable Liquid, Toxic and Infectious Substance	44	1		
1/26/20165.1		Oxidizer	1	1		
1/26/20165.1(6.1)		Oxidizer, Toxic and Infectious Substance	178	3		
1/26/20166.1		Toxic and Infectious Substance	845	7		

1/26/20168B	Corrosive Base	138	2	1583	17
1/26/20169	Miscellaneous	357	2		
1/27/20163	Flammable Liquid	84	3		
1/27/20163(8)	Flammable Liquid, Corrosive	1	1		
1/27/20165.1	Oxidizer	10	10		
1/27/20165.1(8A)	Oxidizer, Corrosive Acid	2	1		
1/27/20165.2(8A)	Organic Peroxides, Corrosive Acid	3	1		
1/27/20166.1	Toxic and Infectious Substance	193	4		
1/27/20168A	Corrosive Acid	47	2		
1/27/20168B	Corrosive Base	43	1		
1/27/20169	Miscellaneous	90	2	473	25
1/28/20162.1	Flammable Gas	1	1		
1/28/20163	Flammable Liquid	41	5		
1/28/20163(6.1)	Flammable Liquid, Toxic and Infectious Substance	40	3		
1/28/20163(8)	Flammable Liquid, Corrosive	1	1		
1/28/20164.1	Corrosive and Flammable	3	2		
1/28/20164.2	Spontaneously Combustible	34	7		
1/28/20164.3	Dangerous When Wet	17	6		
1/28/20165.1	Oxidizer	135	6		
1/28/20166.1	Toxic and Infectious Substance	897	20		
1/28/20168	Corrosive	4	4	1872	71
1/28/20168(6.1)(3)	Corrosive, Toxic and Infectious Substance, Flammable Liquid	3	1		
1/28/20168A	Corrosive Acid	201	6		
1/28/20168B	Corrosive Base	79	4		
1/28/20168B(3)	Corrosive Base, Flammable Liquid	84	1		
1/28/20169	Miscellaneous	332	4		
Totals				9513	200

Final Hazard Categorization Totals:

Date	Unknown Containers	Categorized	Building Number
1/22/2016		9	3
1/23/2016		51	2
1/23/2016		12	3
1/25/2016		107	3
1/26/2016		108	4
1/26/2016		1	2
1/26/2016		109	4
1/27/2016		46	4
1/27/2016		29	1
1/28/2016		1	3
1/28/2016		1	4
1/28/2016		35	1
Total		509	

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

No further action by EPA. The site has been referred to Washington Department of Ecology for further evaluation.

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.