

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region I
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Monday, May 9, 2005

From: Frank Gardner

Subject: InterRoyal Fire

Reservoir Avenue, Plainfield, CT

Latitude: 41.6775000

Longitude: -71.9203000

POLREP No.:	11	Site #:	012U
Reporting Period:	May 6-9	D.O. #:	37
Start Date:	4/26/2005	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	4/26/2005	Response Type:	Emergency
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:	CTD045110913	Contract #	68-W-03-037
RCRIS ID #:	CTD045110913		

Site Description

The Inter Royal Site was the location of a large (over 1,000,000 square feet) abandoned mill structure located in the center of Plainfield, Connecticut. Originally constructed as a textile mill in approximately 1906, Inter Royal manufactured office and hospital furniture from the mid-1950s until 1985. Since that time, the Site has been abandoned, except for a plastic recycling operation in a portion of the building in 1991/1992.

On Tuesday, April 26, 2005 a fire destroyed the northern third of the mill, which was comprised primarily of a three-story brick and timber structure. Other ancillary structures in this northern portion include the boiler room, smokestack, and water tower. The southern 2/3 of the Site includes a sprawling single-story mill structure, which was not damaged by the fire but is in an advanced state of decay and was partially demolished approximately five years ago. See previous polreps for additional background information.

As a result of the fire, potentially-asbestos-contaminated fire debris was deposited over an area measuring approximately five miles long by one-half mile wide. Based on funding limitations and the magnitude of the problem, DEP requested that EPA take over the cleanup of this debris field. Based on this request, discussions with local, state, and federal health agencies, and the presence of friable asbestos-containing material on residential properties, EPA's Superfund Removal Program initiated an emergency removal action on the morning of Thursday, 28 April 2005.

Current Activities

EPA continues to direct emergency response activities utilizing the Incident Command System with the support of DEP and local authorities. In addition to the debris field cleanup, ongoing response activities include real-time dust monitoring and site security at the mill site.

As assessment and cleanup activities have progressed through the debris field, the areal extent of debris deposition still appears consistent with the approximately 5 mile by ½ mile area as defined in previous polreps. Residences continue to be the priority for this cleanup. As of this writing, cleanup activities have been completed at 619 residences. The total number of additional residences potentially requiring cleanup is estimated at less than 100. Cleanup crews have begun cleaning up debris from fields and open spaces accessible to the public.

The incident command post has been largely relocated to a meeting room in the Plainfield Town Hall. However, the mobile command post is still being used to provide critical workstations and field communications capabilities.

Next Steps

The ERRS contractor is in the process of arranging for the demolition of the remaining outer walls of the former 3-story mill building. The purpose of this demolition work is to allow safe access for the purposes of determining whether contaminated debris, rubble, and/or firefighting water may be present within the

footprint of the structure.

response.epa.gov/interroyalfire