

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region X
POLLUTION REPORT**

Date: Monday, May 9, 2005

From: Marc Callaghan

To: Eugene Lee, EPA HQ (POLREP List) Chuck Donaldson, ODEQ
Preston Sleeper, Department of Interior Erin Lynch, EnE
(POLREP list)

Subject: Initiation of Action
Lacamas Explosion/Fire
3625 N Suttle Rd., Portland, OR
Latitude: 45.6131000
Longitude: -122.7056000

POLREP No.:	1	Site #:	
Reporting Period:	Monday May 9-11	D.O. #:	
Start Date:		Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:		Response Type:	Emergency
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

Lacamas Laboratories is a pharmaceutical manufacturing plant located in Portland, Oregon.

The Lacamas plant is located in an industrial setting of North Portland off of Marine Drive. The property is composed of approximately 8 buildings that are used for storing process chemicals and the equipment necessary to produce precursor pharmaceutical chemicals. The total area is approximately 2.4 acres according to information taken from www.portlandmaps.com

Concerns on site (beyond worker safety, fire and explosion) include the threat of runoff of pollutants and contaminants into the Columbia River.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) requested EPA's assistance to both identify and mitigate any potential environmental threats on site.

EPA responded to the site at the request of the DEQ. EPA formed a Unified Command with the RP, (the RP's contractor NRC), DEQ, and the USCG.

Current Activities

Local Fire and Hazmat teams had the primary responsibility of site safety, managing the fire and monitoring the site for secondary explosions.

The IC for the Fire turned the site over to Oregon OSHA inspectors around 1400. OR OSHA inspected the buildings and identified several buildings that would be restricted until further investigations were completed.

Concurrent environmental activities included pumping down and collecting on site water into 20K Baker tanks, and plugging an outflow pipe that was discharging approximately 5 gallons per minute of site water into the Columbia River. The outflow pipe appears to be draining accumulated water from the site. The accumulated water is the result of fire suppression activities, local precipitation and the possible rupture of water service pipes to the site.

On site utilities including gas, electric and water utility services have been shut off.

EPA implemented a sampling effort of the outflow pipe and Columbia River. A sheen was detected on the Columbia River at the location of the outflow pipe and is the result of site contaminant migration. Both skirted and absorbent booms were placed in the water to contain oily contaminants.

The outflow pipe has been plugged and the release rate has been reduced considerably. The rate of release is approximately 1 gal per minute. This release of material will likely continue until the upgradient accumulation on site is removed. On site water accumulation should be completed by Monday evening (09/2005)

A meeting schedule has been established for 1100 and 1400 hours for Planning and Operational discussions respectively.

A 24 hour site security service has been hired to watch the site.

Planned Removal Actions

0800 May 9 - 1400 May 10:

RP contractor (NRC) will continue to manage on site water accumulation by pumping the collected material into Baker tanks.

Maintain site security

EPA will sample at outflow.

NRC will develop site safety plan.

Key Issues

Structural integrity of impacted buildings needs to be conducted prior to entry.

response.epa.gov/lacamas_fire