

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Ford Heights Tire Fire - Removal Polrep
Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region V

Subject: POLREP #2
Final
Ford Heights Tire Fire

Ford Heights, IL
Latitude: 41.5024391 Longitude: -87.5968197

To:
From: Jaime Brown, OSC
Date: 5/31/2016
Reporting Period: 5/26/16 -5/31/16

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	C5BS	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	PRP	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	5/24/2016	Start Date:	5/24/2016
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	5/27/2016
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	Illinois EPA
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response

1.1.2 Site Description

The Site is a tire recycling operation owned/operated by two different entities. All American Recycling, Inc. operates a recycling operation at the site and GMI Recycling operates a tire material storage facility. The piles of shredded tires which were involved in the fire are located at the GMI Recycling facility. The facility is surrounded by a financially distressed, predominantly low-income community.

1.1.2.1 Location

GMI Recycling Services (scrap tire collection operation) is located at 1703 Cottage Grove Avenue, Ford Heights, Illinois 60411.

All American Recycling (tire shred storage and recycling operation) is located at 1705 Cottage Grove Avenue, Ford Heights, Illinois 60411.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

There are two primary threats from the incident. Contaminated run-off (containing oils from the burning tires) from firefighting operations threatens release to Deer Creek. Air emissions from the fire (smoke containing particulates and poly-aromatic hydrocarbons) threaten human health downwind of the site. Areas currently downwind of the site are primarily residential, with a middle school and several churches located within the area impacted by the smoke plume.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

A perimeter site walk was conducted upon arrival. A low-lying area leading to a culvert was receiving the majority of the contaminated run-off water from firefighting operations. Deer Creek runs east of the facility, though a low lying area, retention area, and culvert is currently restricting firefighting run-off from entering Deer Creek. A heavy smoke plume was visible for miles. The plume is impacting downwind receptors in a primarily residential area with several churches and a middle school.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

The fire was believed to be under control by the evening of May 24. However, the tire shred piles flared up periodically throughout the night of May 24 and into the morning of May 25. EPA is supporting the response through air monitoring/sampling and water quality monitoring. In addition, EPA provided technical assistance and temperature monitoring on tire shred piles throughout the night of May 24 to assist in the identification and extinguishing of hot spots remaining in the piles.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

5/26/16 - 5/31/16:

Under the guidance of Illinois EPA, GMI Recycling continued to address hot spots on the shredded tire pile and work began to create smaller wind rows of tire shreds unaffected by the fire. The windrows were constructed with adequate distance between piles to serve as a fire break. U.S. EPA continued to conduct air monitoring around the perimeter of the Site and at Ford Heights Middle School utilizing AreaRAE monitors and DustTrak particulate monitors thru late afternoon on 5/28/16. Water quality monitoring continued thru 5/27/16 at the downstream and source locations for impacts; no adverse readings for Dissolved Oxygen or pH were detected. Samples of the fire suppression water were collected on 5/26/16 to be analyzed by certified laboratory for VOCs, SVOCs, PCBs, TPH, and metals; results are expected by 5/31/16. GMI Recycling hired an environmental contractor to set up portable tanks for storage of the fire suppression water and arrange for offsite disposal.

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

The owners of both GMI Recycling Services and All American Recycling, which currently own & operate tire recycling collection & recycling services, respectively, at the Site, are assisting in response efforts.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Regional Metrics

	Miles of river systems cleaned and/or restored	N/A
	Cubic yards of contaminated sediments removed and/or capped	NA
	Gallons of oil/water recovered	NA
	Acres of soil/sediment cleaned up in floodplains and riverbanks	NA
Stand Alone Assessment	Number of contaminated residential yards cleaned up	NA
	Number of workers on site	10
Contaminant(s) of Concern	Hydrocarbon Impacted Soil and Water	

This is an Integrated River Assessment. The numbers should overlap.

Oil Response Tracking

Estimated volume	Initial amount released	N/A
	Final amount collected	N/A
	FPN Ceiling Amount	N/A
CANAPS Info	FPN Number	N/A
	Body of Water affected	N/A

Administrative and Logistical Factors (Place X where applicable)

Precedent-Setting HQ Consultations (e.g., fracking, asbestos)	Community challenges or high involvement		Radiological
More than one PRP	Endangered Species Act / Essential Fish Habitat issues		Explosives
AOC	Historic preservation issues		Residential impacts
UAO	NPL site		Relocation
DOJ involved	Remote location		Drinking water impacted
Criminal Investigation Division involved	Extreme weather or abnormal field season	X	Environmental justice
Tribal consultation or coordination or other issues	Congressional involvement		High media interest
Statutory Exemption for \$2 Million	Statutory Exemption for 1 Year	X	Active fire present
Hazmat Entry Conducted – Level A, B or C	Incident or Unified Command established	X	Actual air release (not threatened)

Green Metrics

Metric	Amount	Units
Diesel Fuel Used	20	gallons

Unleaded Fuel Used	20	gallons
Alternative/E-85 Fuel Used	0	gallons
Electricity from electric company	0	kWh
Electric Company Name and Account #	NA	
Electricity from sources other than the electric company		kWh
Solid waste reused	NA	enter
Solid waste recycled	NA	pounds
Water Used		gallons

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>
NA					

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Illinois EPA will be the lead

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Ford Heights Fire Department (FHFD) will provide 24 hour surveillance of tire fire and address any hot spots/flare-ups as specified by Illinois EPA

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

EPA has transitioned oversight of cleanup operations to Illinois EPA.

Illinois EPA has issued an Order to GMI Recycling addressing the tire removal, contaminated fire suppression water disposal, and future site investigation and remediation activities.

2.2.2 Issues

2.3 Logistics Section

NA

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

OSC Brown

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

OSC Brown

2.5.3 Information Officer

OSC Brown

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

NA

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

Ford Heights Fire Department

Illinois EPA

Cook County EMA

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System 27

4. Personnel On Site

EPA: 2

Illinois EPA: 1

START: 1

TOTAL: 4

5. Definition of Terms

CERCLA: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

FHFD: Ford Height Fire Department

OSC: On-Scene Coordinator

PCBs: Polychlorinated Biphenyls

START: Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team

SVOCs: Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds

VOCs: Volatile Organic Compounds

TPH: Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

<https://www.epaosc.org/fordheightstirefire>

6.2 Reporting Schedule

This is the final PolRep

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.