

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2006

From: Chris Russell

Subject: Final POLREP

Oak Grove Elementary Mercury Spill
3801 Wake Forest Hwy, Durham, NC
Latitude: 35.9814000
Longitude: -78.8208000

POLREP No.:	4	Site #:	A4LS
Reporting Period:	06/03/2006 - 8/29/2006	D.O. #:	
Start Date:	5/24/2006	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	5/24/2006	Response Type:	Emergency
Demob Date:	8/23/2006	NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:	8/23/2006	Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

On the evening of May 23, 2006, a parent noticed elemental mercury on their child's clothes. In turn, the parent contacted the Poison Control Center for advice. The Poison Control Center then contacted the Durham County Public Health Department (DCPHD), which immediately started an investigation into the source of the mercury. DCPHD discovered that an individual had stolen approximately 10 pounds of elemental mercury and that this individual had taken the mercury to a Church service and dispersed it to four children. At least one of these children took the mercury to the Oak Grove Elementary School and proceeded to "spray" other kids, the school bus, etc. with the mercury. On May 24th, Ms. Luanne Williams, Toxicologist, NC State Health Dept. contacted EPA Region 4 and requested assistance with the investigation and cleanup of the mercury contamination. EPA assessed and monitored 27 separate locations (25 residences, 1 Church, 1 School). Of the 27 locations, 18 sites needed active removal actions (including the school and Church), ranging from the removal of contaminated clothes, to the removal of floors, walls, etc.

EPA worked in a Unified Command with the Durham County Emergency Management Agency, and the Durham County Public Health Department. Durham PD, Durham County Sheriff's Office, State of NC EMA, and the NC State Health Dept. also integrated into the established ICS structure.

Current Activities

All mercury contaminated wastes have been properly disposed of. The last load of waste was removed on 8/23/06. The "free" elemental mercury was reclaimed and recycled.
The hotwash with the Local and State responders was held the week of 8/21/06.

Planned Removal Actions

Removal actions are complete.

Next Steps

None

Key Issues

None

Disposition of Wastes

ERRS contractor CMC, Inc. sub-contracted the disposal of all mercury contaminated wastes to EQ Environmental. Mercury contaminated items were disposed of at Michigan Disposal Services in Bellville, Michigan.
The "free" elemental mercury was reclaimed and recycled.
Disposal costs were less than \$10,000.

Waste Stream	Quantity	Manifest #	Disposal Facility
Mercury Contaminated Material	One roll-off		Michigan Disposal Services (EQ) Bellville, Michigan.

response.epa.gov/oakgrove