

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

Date: Thursday, April 5, 2007

From: Steve Spurlin

Subject: Helena Chemical Company Fire
1749 North 9th Ave., Humboldt, TN
Latitude: 35.8350000
Longitude: -88.9222000

POLREP No.:	3	Site #:	A4PE
Reporting Period:	3/31-4/4/2007	D.O. #:	
Start Date:	3/27/2007	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	3/28/2007	Response Type:	Emergency
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Assessment
CERCLIS ID #:	TND044877090	Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

For site description and previous actions, please refer to previous POLREPs.

Current Activities

The fire was extinguished on 3/30/07, and oversight lead for the Site and the ongoing environmental cleanup was transitioned from the Fire Chief to EPA and TDEC. Helena's environmental contractor, USES, continued to recover suspected waste liquids pooled on the property. Excavation of impacted soils outside the fenceline continued through 3/31/07. USES continued to monitor the creek and pump discolored water from the creek seep area. Two dams were built on the upstream and downstream sides of the seep in an attempt to contain the suspected impacted water.

A berm was constructed around the entire site in anticipation of heavy rains on 3/31/07. Heavy rains the night of 3/31 washed out the dams, but the site berm was effective in containing runoff. USES's efforts focused on continuing to recover pooled waste liquids and the clean-out and securing of 3 on-site storage tanks.

By 4/2, USES had generated the following potential waste materials: 12,000 gals.(est) of wastewater; 150-200 cy. yds of soils/ash (Pile#1); 31- 20 cy. yd rolloffs staged on nearby property; 150 gals of Roundup Max; and various scrap metal.

The scrap metal was transported for disposal on 4/2/07 to the Tunica, MS Subtitle D landfill. Samples of the wastestreams were collect by Helena's contractor to arrange for disposal. Also, samples of the creek water were collected by Helena's contractor. EPA collected samples of the suspected waste material released inside and outside the facility fence, a creek water sample, and a sample from an post-excavation area. The samples were split with Helena.

Helena's air monitoring contractor, CTEH, conducted extensive air monitoring during the fire. Air monitoring was discontinued on 4/1. According to CTEH, no chemical contaminants were detected by the real time field instrumentation. Low levels of particulate matter were detected periodically just northeast of the Site which is a vacant industrial area. Air sample results from a lab should be available in 10-14 days.

Planned Removal Actions

Helana's contractors will continue to maintain the berm and stockpile cover as well as ensure the rolloffs are secured. Disposal data is anticipated within 3-4 days. Once disposal data is received disposal of material will be initiated.

Next Steps

EPA and TDEC will continue to monitor the cleanup progress and assist with regulatory issues.

