

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

**Date:** Thursday, June 12, 2008

**From:** James Webster

**Subject:** Initiation of Action

Pooler Elementary Mercury Spill

308 Holly Ave, Pooler, GA

Latitude: 32.1211200

Longitude: -81.2522880

<b>POLREP No.:</b>	1	<b>Site #:</b>	A4TE
<b>Reporting Period:</b>		<b>D.O. #:</b>	0704-F4-0013
<b>Start Date:</b>	6/12/2008	<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA
<b>Mob Date:</b>	6/11/2008	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL
<b>Completion Date:</b>		<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>CERCLIS ID #:</b>	GAN000410218	<b>Contract #</b>	
<b>RCRIS ID #:</b>			

**Site Description**

On June 11, 2008, Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) reported that a student brought to the school a jar containing mercury and released an undetermined amount in a classroom. GAEPD requested EPA to do air monitoring and assess if the mercury was a threat to the health of the students and personnel. Chatham County Emergency Management, GAEPAD, Poole Fire Dept, Savannah Fire Dept., and Chatham Co. Health Department are on scene.

**Current Activities**

On June 11, 2008, OSC Webster was dispatched with START and they conducted air monitoring throughout the school with a mercury vapor analyzer. Because of the readings during the initial assessment, OSC Webster recommended that the school be closed as a precautionary measure.

On June 12, 2008, EPA identified approximately 3 classrooms and the cafeteria as having elevated levels. These findings triggered a full response by EPA, and EPA's ERRS environmental contractor (ER) was activated in order to conduct removal actions. Classes will most likely be suspended for June 13, 2008. Schools ends on June 13, 2008, but EPA is making sure that the school could open for summer school session. ATSDR has a representative on scene assisting the County Health Department with answering any questions pertaining to mercury. The County Health Department has established a phone number for parents wanting to talk to a nurse concerning mercury and its health effects.

**Planned Removal Actions**

Conduct air monitoring of classrooms and other areas in the school.

Determine if personal items have mercury contamination.

Conduct air monitoring at residences of students that were in close contact with the mercury.

[response.epa.gov/poolerelementaryhgspill](http://response.epa.gov/poolerelementaryhgspill)