



River Street Warehouse Fire (Portland, Oregon) Cleanup Activities Continue

Region 10

October 2017

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in coordination with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the City of Portland, and other state and local partners, will continue to clean up hazardous materials and secure the property at 1300 North River Street in Portland, Oregon where a warehouse burned down on May 14, 2017. The River Street Warehouse Fire Site includes the area where the warehouse is located and any other areas containing contaminated debris from the warehouse fire.

Why is EPA cleaning up the River Street Warehouse Fire Site?

After the fire, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality assessed the warehouse and determined that the roofing paper had **Asbestos Containing Material**. ACM debris at the River Street Warehouse Fire Site could pose an unacceptable risk to people's health.

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral. Asbestos can cause cancer and other kinds of lung disease that may not show up for 10 to 40 years. It can sometimes be found in building materials and other products. Most people have inhaled some asbestos in their lives, but most do not experience health problems. The best way to avoid illness is to avoid asbestos containing materials.

How is EPA cleaning up the River Street Warehouse Fire Site?

The warehouse is located on the east bank of the Willamette River and is constructed on wood pilings, so part of the Site extends over the river. Activities to contain the fire and ACM debris occurred immediately after the warehouse burned down, and included spraying the Site with water mist and also applying a glue-like material over burned debris in order to prevent mobilization of ACM. Now additional work is being conducted to remove all of the ACM debris from the Site. In order to address safety concerns about the structural integrity of the Site during this second phase of the cleanup, EPA will also construct two trestles (metal frames) over the Site to safely access and remove all remaining ACM. EPA will use water to minimize the amount of dust and ACM that may be carried off-site by the wind during the cleanup activities.

