UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IX

Subject: **POLREP #8**
Preparations for Removal at Industrial Property
Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident

Maywood, CA
Latitude: 33.9961640 Longitude: -118.2011630

To: Harry Allen, EPA Region 9
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From: Jason Musante, OSC
Date: 11/2/2016
Reporting Period: 10/11/16 - 10/30/16

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	A9AP	**Contract Number:**	
D.O. Number:		**Action Memo Date:**	9/28/2016
Response Authority:	CERCLA	**Response Type:**	Emergency
Response Lead:	EPA	**Incident Category:**	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	**Operable Unit:**	
Mobilization Date:	6/14/2016	**Start Date:**	6/14/2016
Demob Date:	7/12/2106	**Completion Date:**	
CERCLIS ID:	CAN000903494	**RCRIS ID:**	
ERNS No.:		**State Notification:**	
FPN#:		**Reimbursable Account #:**	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Magnesium fire at a metal recycling and stripping company.

1.1.2 Site Description

On June 14, 2016 at approximately 0200 hours, a fire started at the Panda International Trading (PIT)facility located at 3570 Fruitland Ave., Maywood, CA. Fruitland Ave. is a commercial/light manufacturing district. The facility holds two businesses, PIT and SOKOR Metals. PIT is a scrap metal yard that sends scrap metal out in bulk for recovery. SOKOR recovers precious metals from printed circuit boards and other electronics. The site originally consisted of several buildings, but all were destroyed in the fire. During the fire approximately 300 people on E 52nd Street between Maywood Ave. and Everett Ave. were evacuated. From June 16, 1016 to July 11, 2016, EPA conducted emergency response activities in coordination with Unified Command partners for the removal residual ash from the streets (Fruitland Ave and E 52nd Street, and segments of Everett and Maywood Avenues); assessment of the evacuated residential properties; decontamination of interior and exterior of impacted residential properties; removal of ash from impacted residential yards; and fencing, stabilization and mitigation measures at the PIT/SOKOR property. Please see POLREPS 1-7 for details of these activities.

1.1.2.1 Location

The site is located at 3570 Fruitland Ave., Maywood, Los Angeles County, CA 90702 (Latitude: 33.9961640, Longitude: -118.2011630). To the south of the site is a residential neighborhood of single and multi-family homes. To the north, east and west are light industrial/commercial properties.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Please see POLREP No. 1 for initial threat determination.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

On June 23, during the emergency response phase, START collected samples on the industrial property. Analytical results documented concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, and mercury above waste and/or risk thresholds. In addition to this sampling event, EPA and the START contractor conducted subsequent visits to the site to plan removal activities. During the visit on September 2, 2016, START estimated the quantities of contaminated debris, scrap metal and soil at the site. START documented the presence of ash, debris, drums and totes, electronic waste, universal waste, and batteries.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

After the initial emergency response phase residential cleanup activities were completed, EPA initiated enforcement proceedings to ascertain PRP ability to conduct removal activities at the industrial property. Through counsel, the PRPs raised an ability to pay defense and EPA issued CERCLA 104(e) requests for PRP financial information. Concurrently, EPA began planning for a fund-lead removal action at the site. A ceiling increase and $2 million exemption action memo was signed on 9/28/16 and EPA began preparations to re-mobilize for removal activities at the industrial property.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

EPA has re-mobilized to the site the site to conduct removal activities on the industrial property. Work schedule for onsite activities will be Monday thru Friday from 0700 hours to 1700 hours. This work schedule was intended to minimize disruptions to the adjacent residential community. Security services have been contracted to monitor the site after working hours.

10/11 – 10/13, 2016

EPA:

- OSC Musante and Superfund Community Involvement staff went door-to-door along E 52nd Street, between Maywood Avenue and Everett Avenue to talk with residents about upcoming removal activities at the site and hear their concerns. Fact Sheets describing the planned removal activities were distributed in Spanish and English.

ERRS:

- EPA Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor was onsite to take delivery of heavy equipment and supplies.
- Met with utility companies to discuss considerations related to the installation of the debris screen along the southern property line.
- Met with potential bidders for structural stabilization of the fire damaged roofing structure at the site.

10/17 – 10/23, 2016
Personnel onsite: OSC Musante, 1 START, 5 ERRS (2 RM, 2 EO, 1 TD)

EPA:

- Visited businesses along Fruitland Avenue to hand out Fact Sheets describing planned removal activities.
- OSC Musante and Office of Public Affairs Nahal Mogharabi conducted camera interviews with reporters from ABC 7, NBC 4, and Telemundo. Additionally a phone interview was conducted with KPCC/NPR-LA.
- Met at the site with representatives from the South Coast Air Quality Monitoring District. Discussion topics included the EPA fugitive dust monitoring/control activities and a possible collaboration using the site to assist in the development of new toxics in soils rules.
- Gave briefing to representatives from LA County Public Health and the office of LA County Supervisor Solis. EPA Superfund Assistant Director Dan Meer was also onsite and met with the representatives.
- On Friday 10/21, OSC Musante fielded an unexpected visit from the property owner/PRP. The PRP brought a potential contractor look at the unburned "business inventory" in the center area of the site. OSC Musante requested that the PRP provide timely notice of any future visits to the site.

START:

- EPA Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractor established air monitoring stations around the site perimeter to monitor for total particulates and collect air samples for metals in dust.
- Permission was granted by the resident at 3567 E 52nd St. to locate an air monitoring station next to the house. This is the nearest residential living structure to the site.
- Permission was granted by the resident at 3559 E 52nd St. to locate an air monitoring station next to the house.

ERRS:

- Took delivery of additional equipment/supplies and met with utility providers to discuss considerations related to the installation of the debris screen along the southern property line.
- Storm Water Pollution Prevention (SWPP) materials were installed at the site fence line along Fruitland Ave.
- Subcontractor Gregg Drilling was onsite and completed drilling of 26 post holes for the debris screen.
- Subcontractor from Clark Seif Clark, Inc. was onsite to conduct asbestos containing materials (ACM) survey. No ACM was reported to have been observed.
- Set 26 posts for the debris screen and began installation of tension lines between the posts.

10/24 - 10/30, 2016
Personnel onsite: OSC Musante, 1 START, 5 ERRS (2 RM, 3 EO, 1 TD, 1 FCA)

EPA:

- OSC Musante met onsite with personnel from CalRecycle and their contractor AIS to discuss solid waste removal logistics on Monday, 10/24.

- Community Involvement outreach was conducted with residents along the northern block of E 52nd St. No concerns or issues with the work to date were reported.
- The PRP for PIT visited the site with a potential contractor on Wednesday, 10/26. The contractor, HCi, may assist the PRP with removal of the non-fire impacted business inventory. OSC Musante returned $500 of US currency that was discovered in a debris pile near the former PIT office area to the PRP.

START:

- Installed a weather station at the command post to monitor wind speed and direction.
- Continued air monitoring around the site perimeter for total particulates and air sample collection for metals in dust analysis. Monitoring for VOCs also conducted onsite.
- Initiated personal dust monitoring for site workers engaged in activities with the potential to generate dusts.

ERRS:

- Completed installation of the tension lines and hung filter fabric material to complete the debris screen construction along the southern property boundary.
- Soil sealant was re-applied across the site to control dust generation.
- An office trailer was delivered to serve as the site command post and set up at 3574 Fruitland Avenue, in front of the Gemini Plastics building. Space for the command post was leased from the property owner.
- An additional equipment operator and FCA were mobilized to the site this week.
- Sorting of debris piles in the eastern area of the site was begun using an excavator with thumb attachment.

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

EPA civil investigation has identified two PRPs for the site: the property owner and business operator of PIT and the business operator of SOKOR. Both PRPs have claimed an inability to pay for cleanup at the industrial property.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

See daily activities description above.

Waste Stream	*Medium*	*Quantity*	*Manifest #*	*Treatment*	*Disposal*

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Removal of solid and hazardous wastes from the industrial property.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

- Construction of a debris screen along the southern property boundary with residential properties.
- Effluent dust monitoring and sampling around site perimeter.
- Segregation of solid and hazardous waste streams from debris piles at the site.
- Offsite transportation and disposal of solid wastes by CalRecycle contractor.
- Characterization of residual debris piles for hazardous waste disposal.
- Offsite transportation and disposal of hazardous wastes by EPA contractor.
- Additional assessment sampling across the site to confirm removal of hazardous substances and/or identify areas requiring subsurface soils removal.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

For the period of 10/31 to 11/6, site activities will primarily be the segregation of debris piles and the removal of solid wastes at the site. Sampling of residual debris piles for hazardous waste disposal profiling is also planned.

2.2.2 Issues

Coordination with PRP PIT regarding their interest in fire cause investigation and recovery of unburned "business inventory" from the property.

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative

Costs below are the estimated cumulative costs to date for emergency response phase and removal phase actions.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	$2,000,000.00	$970,950.00	$1,029,050.00	51.45%
IAGs - PST	$150,000.00	$40,000.00	$110,000.00	73.33%
START	$1,000,000.00	$456,000.00	$544,000.00	54.40%
SERAS	$150,000.00	$30,000.00	$120,000.00	80.00%
Intramural Costs				
USEPA - Direct	$160,000.00	$75,000.00	$85,000.00	53.13%
USEPA - InDirect	$2,300,000.00	$0.00	$2,300,000.00	100.00%
Total Site Costs	$5,760,000.00	$1,571,950.00	$4,188,050.00	72.71%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

Unified command was dissolved after the return of information packets to affected residents of E 52nd St. EPA is now the lead agency for removal actions at the industrial property.

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

California Department of Resource Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) is participating in removal activities on the industrial property by providing offsite transportation and disposal of solid waste materials. CalRecycle contractor American Integrated Services, Inc. (AIS) will be providing these services.

CDC/ATSDR ERP: OSC Musante requested a consultation to provide an action level for fugitive total dust at the site. ATSDR recommends an action level for respirable particulate matter protective of public health of 150 ug/m^3 PM_{10} based on the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) calculated for an 8-hour workday (50 ug/m^3 PM_{10} 24-hour). Continuous real time air monitoring should be conducted in the hot zone as well as the perimeter fence line and in the residential areas to ensure concentrations do not exceed an average of 150 ug/m^3 PM10 or a ceiling of 279 ug/m^3. At these concentrations, dust suppression methods should be in place to prevent migration of fugitive air emissions.

4. Personnel On Site

Please see the operations section.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

The website for this site is located www.epaosc.org/FruitlandMgFire.

Additionally, site for the public has been set up at www.epa.gov/ca/response-fruitland-avenue-magnesium-fire

6.2 Reporting Schedule

POLREPSs will be distributed weekly on Tuesdays to describe activities of the previous week. The next POLREP will be sent on November 8, 2016

7. Situational Reference Materials

See the IAPs in Documents Section.