



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTAL SUPERVISORS

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May 16, 2023

Board Memo 039-2023: Mercury Spill at Lake Michigan Post Office and Detroit NDC

Executive Board,

Below is an update from the Michael Swigart, the Executive Director of Continuity and Preparedness, regarding the mercury spill that occurred May 15th at the Lake Michigan Post Office and Detroit NDC locations.

5-16-23

SITUATION:

NDC

EPRRS contractors worked overnight to determine the extent of the mercury spill at the Detroit NDC. Visible mercury was discovered on PSM4 (5-15-23). The PSM4 ceased running at approximately 3:00am (5-15-23) however, the leaking package was not noticed nor did anyone report seeing the mercury in the sack. The mail was allowed to leave the facility and flow downstream through the network.

Additional information at the NDC was determined by the contractor overnight:

- Confirmed physical evidence of spillage located surrounding PSM4, Bin 584 in the form of elemental mercury beads (visible) on both the chute from the distributing trays and on the floor of this area.
- The package could have traveled 2 different routes to the PSM4 location – Identified as the North and South routes - both routes will be evaluated.
- Due to the design and layout of the conveyor system, there is concern that multiple other locations could be impacted, including the docks, dumpers, slides and sorting stations and conveyor belt system(s) with mercury that is not visible.
- Additional resources (staff and analysis meters) will be on site by late morning with the expectation of ten (10) analysis meters on site by mid-afternoon.
- Clean-up activities will coincide with the assessment once areas are identified and confirmed.

Lake PO

Initial Findings:

- Facility secured and awaiting WSP (EPRRS) onsite response this morning with ETA of 10 am. The crew was delayed on arrival, due to lack of availability of mercury sampling equipment. They will perform assessment and cleanup together, due to the small size of the facility. Site POOM is working with EPRRS contractor on arrival and site logistics.

- 2 packages were identified in the impacted hamper – unconfirmed if either package is the source package. EPPRS contractor will confirm when on site with mercury analyzers.

The four (4) additional downstream offices that were potentially impacted were cleared to continue operations. These offices are Saginaw PO, Clare PO, Farwell PO, and Lake George PO.

There are no changes to the 3p (people, property, product) status for this update.

Please share this information with your membership.

Thank you, and be safe.

NAPS Headquarters