



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTAL SUPERVISORS

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June 6, 2023

Board Memo 050-2023: Small Bead Mercury Discovered at Tularosa, New Mexico Post Office

Executive Board,

Below is an update from Rae Ann Haight, Director of National Preparedness, regarding the small bead of mercury discovered at the Tularosa, New Mexico Post Office yesterday.

A small bead of mercury has been discovered at a Level 18 Post Office in **Tularosa NM 88352** [360 Central Ave]. Retail 0830-1700 M-F.

Initial intel *appears* to be unrelated to the Nevada mercury discovery late last night; however, further evaluation is underway.

Situation:

Discovered this morning 6/6/23 ~ one small bead of mercury in the DPS letters of a CDS/HCR route's mail during sorting. Two (2) other HCR's did not see any mercury in their letter trays. No mercury reported to PM during parcel sorting. Interim Mercury SOP initiated by local site.

USPS Headquarters Industrial Hygienist engaged with onsite leadership and contractors; working through the mobilization of Emergency Preparedness Response and Recovery (EPRRS). Evaluation by EPRRS contractor will determine process for remediation. ETA for EPRRS is TBD.

No source package / letter / flat identified.

People

- Six (6) employees accounted for; no health issues being reported
- One (1) employee came in contact with the mercury and washed their hands

Property:

- Facility evacuated
- Facility closed – signage on door for temporary closure
- Area cordoned off

Product:

- Retail & Delivery coordinating activities and potential COOP
- COOP location if necessary is Alamogordo
- Awaiting coordination and arrival of EPRRS contractor (no ETA)

Tracking Efforts:

- VP Processing & Southern Area Divisions, Directors, and leadership are aware of the situation and have initiated visual assessments at the El Paso Plant as well as hubs that work this volume as it is not known where / how the mercury bead may have surfaced on a letter.
- El Paso TX processes volume for this site ~ they have initiated visual assessments of the Interim Mercury SOP protocols in an effort to search for any source package / DPS within their facility.
- Logistics is also following up for visual inspections of trucks that went from the El Paso Plant to the Hub office and then from the hub office to the Tularosa Post Office. Vehicle for the El Paso station is being placed out of service pending the "All Clear."

Communications:

PANS alert initiated for both NM site as well as El Paso TX PDC.

Coordination with HQ OSH, Industrial Hygienist, MPOO.

VP awareness

Following the arrival of EPRRS (time TBD), an assessment and cleanup must be accomplished; clearance will be required prior to opening up for employees (length of time not yet determined).

Thank you, and be safe.

NAPS Headquarters