



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTAL SUPERVISORS

National Headquarters

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Board Memo 055-2023: Additional Updates Mercury Spills Discovered in Las Vegas, Tularosa, NM, and El Paso, TX Facilities

Executive Board,

Below are further updates regarding mercury spills in Las Vegas, Tularosa, NM, and El Paso, TX facilities.

Site #1 Las Vegas PSA (Henderson NV)

Based on current information, Postal should continue plans for this site to be out of use for a worst-case scenario of an additional 5 -7 days (which includes cleanup, sampling, toxicology review, etc.)

Industrial Hygienist reports:

1. Still cannot determine where package broke based on current information
2. Package cannot be tracked, likely processed out of the facility
3. Contractor needs to run the machine at low speeds to identify if mercury is in the conveyor system, however the machine cannot be moved in various speeds due to design unless voiding the warranty. Contractor working through a solution with local maintenance.
 1. Current options:
 1. Option #1: is to remove nearly 100 short panels to access the entire bottom of the conveyor.
 2. Option #2: is to run the machine full speed, however contractor worried about potential further spread and cross-contamination.
4. Mercury was found in the path originally designated for mail to be staged for pickup – contractor evaluating further
5. WSP will continue with efforts to move the clear the mail to dock 24 area.
6. WSP will coordinate with Postmaster on pickup of cleared mail.
7. Additional mercury found on the floor in front of bays 1-6, which is believed to have been tracked by forklift use in the area.
8. WSP will continue screening shoes and cars upon employee arrival this afternoon/evening
9. WSP is mobilizing a 20-person team (+2 WSP already on site) for remediation efforts.
 1. 10-day shift
 2. 10-night shift
10. Mail decontamination areas will be prepared, as necessary

Regarding PSA Employees & Operations:

11. 73 total employees work at the PSA (68 PSA employees; 5 Sales employees who are authorized to telework)
12. Operation offloaded to Las Vegas PDC; 68 PSA employees reporting to Las Vegas PDC
13. Daily meetings of local team, DM, and unions.

Site #2 Tularosa NM 88352 – Level 18 P.O.

Based on current information, Postal should plan for this site to be out of use for a worst-case scenario of an additional 3-5 days (which includes cleanup, sampling, toxicology review, etc.)

Industrial Hygienist reports:

14. ER, LLC and WSP are currently on-site assessing situation.
15. Initial mercury levels inside facility were above clearance levels.
16. Facility heat was on when contractor arrived, which increased the vaporization of mercury. The contractor plans to vent the building and retest to confirm mercury levels.
17. Mail decontamination activities will start immediately following venting.
18. Local management worked with WSP to identify and locate the trailer that carried the impacted mailpiece to the site. WSP evaluated the trailer for mercury.
19. One area in the trailer registered low mercury levels near Postal clearance criteria.
20. It's believed levels may have been higher in previous days, therefore WSP plans to assess the dock at the Alamogordo facility (where the package last originated and current COOP location) – contractor confirming that was only location of where package went through – WSP will plan to track back and assess, as necessary.
21. No source mailpiece was located - mercury was found in the bottom of a white tray.
22. WSP Will continue looking for the source package in the coming hours

Regarding Tularosa Employees & Operations:

1. Facility COOP'd to Alamogordo NM; seven (7) postal employees and three (3) contractors reporting to COOP site
2. Signage on facility entrance; Collection box taken out of service
3. Service Alert current

Site #3: El Paso TX P&DC

Precautionary EPRRS assessment today 6/7 ~ ALL CLEAR given by Industrial Hygienist report at 1230ET today.

Thank you, and be safe.

NAPS Headquarters