



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTAL SUPERVISORS

*National Headquarters*  
1727 KING STREET, SUITE 400  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2753  
(703) 836-9660

June 20, 2023

### Board Memo 069-2023: Update on Mercury Spill in Las Vegas

#### Executive Board,

Below is an update on the mercury spill in Las Vegas.

#### **6/17/2023: Las Vegas Mercury Spill update, information per USPS Industrial Hygienist Brandon Henderson**

The next update will be Sunday June 18<sup>th</sup> unless conditions warrant otherwise.

#### Las Vegas PSA (Henderson)

- Contractor ran a 4-hour study of breathing zones around expansion joints that had elevated levels on 6-16.
  - Results came back within Postal criteria.
- USPS maintenance was able to open the SIPS 2 and replace the belt on Friday June 16th. Once the belt was successfully replaced, the machine was run.
  - Once machine was run, contractors found additional hotspots inside the machine that were previously inaccessible visually and by instrumentation.
  - All readings prior to starting up the SIPS were within Postal criteria.
    - Contractors believe mercury is trapped within the intake portion of the conveyor.
- Contractors will build a containment around the intake portion of the SIPS 2 and continue heating/venting the area to promote off-gassing of any remaining mercury.
  - After the containment has been heated and vented, contractors will take readings and attempt to decontaminate accessible surfaces, then repeat the process.
  - Contractor states one heating/ventilation cycle will take up to **5 hours**.
- Contractors have proposed the following tentative outline of activities over the next few days:
  - **Saturday, June 17**
    - Acquire materials and build a containment around the SIPS 2 intake portion of the machine.
    - Heat and vent the interior of the containment.
      - Day shift personnel will attempt to complete one full cycle after building containment.
    - Overnight shift will continue heating and venting process throughout the night.
  - **Sunday, June 18**
    - Continue heating, venting, and cleaning cycles throughout the day and night or until toxicologist confirms mercury levels have sufficiently dropped.
  - **Monday, June 19**

- If the levels have sufficiently dropped, contractors will remove containment and prepare for final clearance.
  - If levels have showed a downward trend but have not reached acceptable levels, contractors will continue the heating/ventilation process.
  - If levels are not showing a downward trend, contractors will obtain guidance from USPS and look into other remediation efforts.
- **Tuesday, June 20**
    - Activities on this day are dependent upon the steps taken on June 19
      - If levels sufficiently dropped, contractors would obtain analytical clearance and take steps to reopening the facility.
      - If levels were showing downward trend, contractors will reassess readings and will obtain USPS guidance regarding continuing or ceasing the heating/venting process and possibly investigate other remediation efforts.

Thank you, and be safe.

NAPS Headquarters