



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTAL SUPERVISORS

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June 20, 2024

### **Board Memo 090-2024: Update on Mercury Spill at the Town & Country, Missouri Branch**

#### **Executive Board,**

Below is an update from Michael Swigart, the Executive Director of Continuity and Preparedness, regarding the mercury spill that occurred today, June 12<sup>th</sup> at the Town and Country, MO branch.

#### **6-18-24 PM HQ Summary Sitrep – Town & Country MO mercury spill**

**Situation Summary** (details from USPS Industrial Hygienist included below):

- **Town & Country MO Post Office** remains closed. The contractor is starting to divide the floor into 4 quadrants, each will be cleaned and cleared starting with the nightshift.

An additional 472 mail pieces were cleared bringing the total of cleared mail pieces to 1, 514. All of these were moved off-site and re-entered into the mail stream. Transportation of cleared mail will resume on Thursday June 20<sup>th</sup>.

A total of 3 decontamination tents are currently in use onsite. Items in these tents will be heated and then screened tonight.

- **Hazelwood (St. Louis) NDC** remains open and operational. One (1) CPU tower and box cannot be decontaminated. The Contractor notified Postal management of this fact.

The information below is current as of 2000 (eastern).

#### **June 18, 2024 – Occupational Safety & Health Evening Update**

##### **Hazelwood (STL) NDC**

##### **Completed activities:**

- 1 CPU tower and 1 box of the CPU cannot be decontaminated.
  - Contractor notified facility management that the equipment cannot be salvaged.
  - Contractor is coordinating disposal with local management.
- The 4 remaining packages are each in their own bag and staged in the decontamination tent.
  - Mercury readings are still elevated after several attempts to vaporize.
  - Contractor will likely have to dispose of the packages, but will attempt one more analysis.
- 2 Rolloff bins of waste and 1 drum of wash water are staged at the facility.

##### **Planned activities:**

- Contractor will return to screen the remaining 4 packages during the day shift tomorrow. Based on current readings and the many cycles these packages have gone through, they may not be salvageable.
- Contractor received full laboratory report.
  - Contractor toxicologist is currently reviewing the report.
  - A clearance letter will be issued for the NDC once USPS CIH confirms results.

**Notes:**

- The Facility is open and operational

**Air Quality:**

- N/A

**Town & Country PO**

**Completed activities:**

- A tractor truck arrived at the facility and was loaded with cleared packages ready for recirculation.
  - An additional 472 packages were cleared during the day shift for a total of 1,514 cleared packages that were moved offsite, and reentered into the mailstream.
- A total of 3 decontamination tents are currently staged and in use onsite.
  - At around 3pm CST, packages were loaded into the 2 new tents, and heaters were turned on.
  - Temperatures have been lower today so the tents will be heated and then screened tonight.
- The contractor finished cleaning carts and removed extra mail that was on the carrier desks.
- All material and debris is out of the impacted zone.
- The contractor is starting to divide the floor into 4 quadrants.
  - Each quadrant will be cleaned and cleared.
  - Cleaning activities will start during the nightshift.
- Current waste at the facility includes 2 rolloff bins and two drums.
  - An additional empty rolloff bin is also staged at facility.
  - The contractor will begin working on waste profiling.
    - There will be 3 separate waste streams - general trash, wash water, and material in mercury vacuums.
- Quality assurance check on 10 packages cleared.

**Planned activities:**

- Continue to stage cleared packages ready for recirculation into the mailstream.
  - Carts have been provided by local management.
  - The cleared packages will be covered in poly and will remain onsite in the clean zone through the Juneteenth holiday.
  - Transporting of cleared packages will resume on Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The interior floors will be cleaned during the night shift this evening.
  - Due to the nonfunctioning HVAC unit, the floor cleaning was unable to begin during the day shift today as the interior fans need to be turned off.

- The cleaning will begin when temperatures decrease this evening and fans can be safely turned off.
- It was confirmed that the flooring in the facility does not contain asbestos.
- All carts have been moved out of the facility.
  - They will be screened at the beginning of the evening shift.
- All other remediation activities will continue, as needed.

**Air Quality:**

- Air quality is stable within the facility – upgraded PPE required during cleaning activities.

Please share this information with your membership.

Thank you, and be safe.

NAPS Headquarters