



Martin Street Response & Removal

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND

THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND REMOVAL PROGRAM

responds to chemical, biological and radiological releases and large-scale national emergencies, including homeland security incidents. EPA conducts short term cleanups in the removal program when necessary to protect human health and the environment by either funding response actions directly or overseeing and enforcing actions conducted by potentially responsible parties.



INTRO:

On August 27th at approximately 12:00, the Maynard Fire Department was notified of an open container of Mercury at a residence on Martin Street. Upon discovery of the mercury the regional hazardous materials team was activated. Further investigation revealed a number of chemicals stored in the basement. The EPA was brought in to begin clean-up operations. The Maynard Fire Department, Maynard Board of Health, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are coordinating a removal of hazardous material including mercury and other chemicals. At this time, there is no threat to public safety or to public health.

KEY CONTACTS:

EMILY ZIMMERMAN

EPA New England
(617) 918-1037
zimmerman.emily@epa.gov

ELSBETH HEARN

EPA New England
On-Scene Coordinator
(617) 918-1265
hearn.elsbeth@epa.gov

BACKGROUND

EPA is working to remove hazardous chemicals that were found in a residence in Maynard, MA. On August 27, 2012, the Hazardous Materials Response Division of the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services requested EPA assistance at the residence. EPA responders arrived on-scene to assess the situation on August 27th, and on August 28th work crews began working to remove the hazardous materials. Most of the chemicals were stored in the basement of the home on Martin Street, and the first job of the crews was to create a work zone in the basement to assess, organize and remove chemicals. Crews will evaluate the residence for hazardous materials in the coming days.

There were other chemicals found in the residence, including toluene, ammonium hydroxide, hydrochloric acid, vanadium pentoxide, lithium metal, and ammonium nitrate. These chemicals will also be removed from the residence and do not currently pose a risk to human health.

GENERAL INFO:

EPA NEW ENGLAND

5 Post Office Square
Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912
(617) 918-1111
www.epa.gov/region1/

CHEMICALS OF CONCERN

One of the most prominent chemical of concern is mercury found in an open container in the basement of the residence. Elevated levels of mercury have been detected in the indoor air. Crews are working to clean the residence using air ventilation and other mercury removal techniques.

EPA RESPONSE ACTION

EPA has been responding to the situation since August 27th, and will continue to work at the residence until the chemicals are safely removed from the property. EPA response workers will have multiple vehicles parked outside the site, including a chemical storage box that will be used to safely take the chemicals off site. The Maynard Fire Department provided a fire truck and crew on-scene for the first few days of the response. They will continue to work closely with the EPA responders throughout the entire response action.

TOLL-FREE CUSTOMER SERVICE

1-888-EPA 7341

LEARN MORE AT:

www.epa.gov/region1/
superfund/er/