U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Slauson Tanker Fire - Removal Polrep
Initial Removal Polrep

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IX

Subject: **POLREP #1**
Emergency Response and PRP Cleanup
Slauson Tanker Fire

Los Angeles, CA
Latitude: 33.9889280 Longitude: -118.2766290

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From: Robert Wise, OSC
Date: 3/20/2019
Reporting Period: 03/17-20/2019

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:		**Contract Number:**	
D.O. Number:		**Action Memo Date:**	
Response Authority:	OPA	**Response Type:**	Emergency
Response Lead:	PRP	**Incident Category:**	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	**Operable Unit:**	
Mobilization Date:	3/17/2019	**Start Date:**	3/19/2019
Demob Date:		**Completion Date:**	
CERCLIS ID:		**RCRIS ID:**	
ERNS No.:		**State Notification:**	
FPN#:	E19902	**Reimbursable Account #:**	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Gasoline Tanker Explosion and Gasoline Spill

1.1.2 Site Description

At approximately 0745 hours on March 17, 2019, a 911 call was received by Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) reporting a strong smell of gasoline. When LAFD arrived on-scene they observed a MC406 tanker on 210 W. Slauson Ave., releasing gasoline. Prior to entering the property the gasoline vapors from the tanker found an ignition source and the tanker exploded. The explosion released a large quantity of burning gasoline onto surrounding structures and the street. The explosion severely damaged the machine shop directly east of the tanker and caused extensive fire damage to the residential home directly to the west. The resulting fire burned all vehicles at the 210 Slauson Ave. location (See 1.1.2.1). The fire also released a large quantity of burning gasoline to Slauson Ave., where it migrated to the west down the gutter and into the storm drain. The pressure exerted by the burning fuel caused manhole covered in the underground

storm drain to blow apart. The burning gasoline traveled downstream in the storm drain to approximately 66th St. and Broadway, where it was bound up in residual debris in the storm drain.

1.1.2.1 Location

The site is located at 210 W. Slauson Ave. and 216 W. Slauson Ave., Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, CA 90003. 210 W. Slauson was the location of the tanker explosion and is a 0.13 acre lot zone residential. This address is subdivided into two parts: vacant lot and a machine shop. . The vacant lot contained an approximately 9,000 gallon MC406 tanker trailer containing an unknown amount of gasoline, two semi trailers, a semi-truck. All vehicles were burned and destroyed in the tanker explosion. The residential property at 216 Slauson Ave. contained a single family home, a covered outdoor kitchen and a earthen back yard. The single family home was severely damaged by the ensuing fire as well as the machine shop.

The site is located in residential area in the Florence area of Los Angeles. The site is bordered on the west by Brentwood Street and on the east by Innkeeper Street.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The fire released an unknown quantity of gasoline to the vacant lot, adjacent machine shop and the residence. Gasoline was also released to the street and the storm drain. The storm drain drains to the Compton Creek which drains to the Los Angeles River, a designated Waters of the US.

Upon EPA's arrival at the tanker contained approximately 1,600 gallons of fire suppression water, class B fire suppression foam and gasoline.

All three locations are heavily contaminated with gasoline. Due to forecasted rain, there is a potential for the migration of off-site contamination.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

There is visible contamination all over all three locations. Air monitoring has documented ambient air gasoline levels ranging from 10-20 ppm up to 100's of ppm volatile organic compounds. Analysis of the soil using an flame ionization documented up to 270,000 ppm in the soil. Areas of the soil are completely saturated with gasoline.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

EPA has responded to a fire from a tanker truck parked in a vacant lot. LAFD, Los Angeles Watershed Protection (LAWP) and Los Angeles County Fire Department Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) requested that EPA take over the oversight of the cleanup 210 and 216 Slauson Ave.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

March 17, 2019:
Federal On-Scene Coordinator Robert Wise was dispatched to the site by the EPA Spill Phone Duty Officer at 0945 hours on March 17, 2019. OSC Wise dispatched the START contractor. OSC Wise arrived on-site at 1230 hours. The LAWP had contracted with Clean Harbors to clean the street, sidewalks and storm drain. OSC Wise was originally going to deploy the ERRS contractor, but called then back after the land owner's representative was located and they agreed to conduct the cleanup. The land owner also hired Clean Harbors.

March 18, 2019:
At approximately 0100 hours on March 18, 2019, Clean Harbors began to collect free standing liquid consisting of fire suppression water, foam and gasoline from around the vacant lot. During the liquid collection, OSC stopped work due to safety issues with Clean Harbors including personal protective clothing, respiratory protection and air monitoring issues. After work resumed, all personnel were in Level C with a coated tyvec type suit. The START contractor also made a Level C entry to conduct air monitoring and contractor oversight. After the free standing liquid was removed, a 21,000 gallon steel tank was placed on site to hold the remaining liquid in the tanker. The vacuum truck previous used to collect the free standing liquids was then unloaded into the tank on-site. Clean Harbors then used a stand-alone pump to pump the contents of the tanker into the steel tank. Site operations ended at 0530 hours on March 18, 2019. All parties demobilized from the site to get a few hours of sleep, but was back on-site by 1130 hours on March 18, 2019.

Clean Harbors continued to decontaminate the vacant lot and remove debris. In the early evening, a wrecking company removed the tanker body and all other vehicles on-site. Once the vehicles were removed the entire site was covered with a quick dry sorbent material to soak up any gasoline leaching from the asphalt and soil and to keep the odors down. This operation was completed by 1100 hours and all parties demobilized for the evening. The START conducted extensive air surveillance during all site operations using Area Raes and TVA monitors to monitor total volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The site action level is 100 ppm total VOCs as gasoline, which is based on the Total Threshold Limit Value for gasoline, plus a safety factor.

March 19, 2019:

OSC Wise, START and Clean Harbors were on-site by 0700 hours. Clean Harbors spent the morning picking up contaminated debris and the sorbent material laid down the night before. At approximately 1400 hours, Clean Harbors began hardening the site against rain. Sand bag berms and sorbent pool was placed along the downstream end of the entire site. The contaminated soil areas at 216 Slauson were also covered with visqueen to minimize contact between rainwater and contaminated soil.

The START continued air surveillance using the TVAs and AreaRaes. The START also conducted an assessment of the backyard at 216 Slauson. Soil gasoline contamination was documented up to five feet below ground surface. START conducted soil boring using the hand auger and collected soil samples that were placed in bags and then analyzed using the TVA. VOC levels ranged from 150 ppm to 260,000 ppm

by TVA. Based on the START assessment and estimated 100 cubic yards of soil will need to be removed. START also conducted a soil assessment in the area where the tanker had sat and discovered a hot spot at over 260,000 ppm by TVA in the soil. EPA demobilized from the site at approximately 1830 hours.

March 20, 2019:

OSC Wise was not on-site today. Clean Harbors was on-site conducting stormwater management operations. The START conducted oversight and documented the stormwater management operations.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

The land owners is the Devore Family. They have currently retained Clean Harbors. The tenant is Karlen Galstyan. The land owners and LAFD were unable to find Mr. Galstyan. The address he provided on his lease turned out to be vacant lot with a mail box.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	*Medium*	*Quantity*	*Manifest #*	*Treatment*	*Disposal*
Petroleum	Soil and Debris	20 cubic yards			
Gasoline, Water, Class B Foam	Liquid	2000 gallons			

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Removal of all contaminated soil at 216 Slauson and the machine shop. Removal of contaminated soil and asphalt at the vacant log.

Work on March 21, 2019 will include removal of contaminated soil from 216 Slauson.

2.2.2 Issues

On March 18, 2019, OSC Wise stopped work due to safety issues. OSC Wise has advised the Clean Harbors management of this issue.

All site operations other then stormwater management has ceased and will remain shut down until payment issues can be resolved.

2.3 Logistics Section

NA

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative

An FPN for $50,000 has been opened.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

OSC Wise is the Safety Officer

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

OSC Wise is the Liaison Officer

2.5.3 Information Officer

Margo Perez-Sullivan is the EPA PIO for the site, however she is not on-site. OSC Wise has been handling all medial interactions on-site for EPA.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

EPA is the lead agency for the cleanup of the site. California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CADFW) and LAWP are also on-site every day to provide oversight assistance.

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

LAFD
Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Major Crimes
LAPD Hazmat
Los Angeles Traffic Division
Los Angeles Department of Transportation
Los Angeles County Public Health
HHMD
South Coast Air Quality Management District
U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Pipeline Safety and Hazardous Material Administration
DOT Office of Inspector General

4. Personnel On Site

March 17, 2019: 1 OSC, 2 START
March 18, 2019: 1 OSC, 3 START
March 19, 2019: 1 OSC, 2 START
March 20, 2019: 1 START

5. Definition of Terms

LAFD: Los Angeles Fire Department
LAPD: Los Angeles Police Department
LWSP: Los Angeles Water Shed Protection
OSC: On-Scene Coordinator
START: Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team

6. Additional sources of information

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.