



REMOVAL

Providence Barrel Site Smithfield, RI

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.



INTRODUCTION

The 0.89-acre Providence Barrel Site, located at 7 Oak Street, Smithfield, RI, is controlled by the Town of Smithfield and is currently a vacant lot containing the remains of a raised slab foundation for a building constructed in the 1950s that has since been demolished. The majority of the lot is overgrown with grasses, shrubs, and trees and public access is unrestricted.

BACKGROUND

The Providence Barrel & Steel Drum Co. operated a drum cleaning and reclamation business on-site from 1972 through at least 1980 and possibly until 1984. Based on site conditions, it is possible that the 55-gallon drums and other containers were cleaned using petroleum hydrocarbons and then the mixture was released onto the ground. Although there are no drums or containers remaining on the Site, a drum lid was found in the former disposal pit area during the site investigation

EPA'S INVOLVEMENT

In 2008, EPA conducted a time-critical removal action at the Site, the purpose of which was to reduce the potential for exposure to volatile organic compound (VOC)- and lead (Pb)-contaminated soil and to address lead contamination in soil at several residential properties near the Site. The removal action was conducted in coordination with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM).

In 2020, RIDEM requested EPA's assistance in finding a persistent source of VOC contamination in the groundwater. EPA conducted an environmental investigation in November/December 2020 and April 2021 that included soil gas sampling. Results of this sampling indicated elevated concentrations of VOCs mixed with oil in soil near the surface. Given that the contamination is located in shallow soil (from zero to eight feet below ground surface) and that public access to the lot is currently unrestricted

continued >

KEY CONTACTS:

ALEX SHERRIN

EPA On-Scene Coordinator
617-918-1252

sherrin.alex@epa.gov

BRENDA ESCOBAR

EPA Community Involvement
Coordinator
617-918-1186

escobar.brenda@epa.gov

TOLL-FREE CUSTOMER SERVICE

1-888-EPA-7341

LEARN MORE AT:

response.epa.gov



and used by locals for walking their dogs, exposure to such contaminants is possible for anyone walking or digging in the pit area. In addition, VOCs are present in soil gas at levels which may present a health threat if it moves into nearby residences.

The objective of the removal action will be to remove the sources of the comingled contaminants and oil and to address potential indoor air residential exposure.

NEXT STEPS/WHAT TO EXPECT

EPA expects to start a time-critical removal action by late August 2021. The eight-week removal action will include excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil/waste. The extent of contamination will be checked by sampling and analyses including both on-site field screening and appropriate laboratory analyses. Groundwater is not considered a source and will not be addressed in this action.

Residents in the area may see contractors on site wearing protective clothing, including white Tyvek suits, protective head gear, and footwear. This is due to the direct contact these workers have with contaminated soil. During construction activities, the site will be fenced, and if necessary, be watched by a security guard. Air monitoring and dust suppression methods will be conducted to prevent any potential impact to public health.