



MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT
OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Danversport Explosion

Neighborhood Update

#3 - December 14, 2006

Issued by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection arrived at the scene of the Danversport explosion in the early hours of the morning on November 22nd to support the response efforts. Responsibility for the site was formally transferred to EPA on November 29th. Both EPA and MassDEP continue to work closely with the Town of Danvers and other state and federal agencies to address the area impacted by the explosion.

EPA has set up temporary office trailers in the fenced area at Bates and Water Streets. Between 20 and 25 personnel are working on site from EPA, MassDEP, the United States Coast Guard and EPA contractors. These staff and contractors are identifiable by their clothing and / or badges. Field operations are underway Monday through Saturday with Sunday used primarily for planning for the following week.

EPA, MassDEP and Danvers Town Manager Wayne Marquis are hosting a neighborhood meeting in the cafeteria of the Riverside School at 7 p.m. on December 20th to update the community on activities at the site.

This is the third neighborhood update. Previous editions can be viewed on-line at: www.epa.gov/ne/danvers.

An Update on Field Activities

□ To date over 200 drums have been removed from the former building and readied for sampling and characterization. Over 140 of the drums are filled with solid material and 31 are filled with liquid. The sampling results will be used to identify the contents of each drum and to determine which off-site facility to ship the drums, containers, and other wastes for disposal. Thirty five empty drums have also been removed and are being readied for disposal.

□ Three underground storage tanks containing approximately 7400 gallons of chemical solvents were pumped out this week. Four above ground process vats were examined and found to contain between 2000 and 3000 gallons of chemical products each. The contents of

the vats are being sampled and a plan will be developed for emptying and disposing of them.

□ EPA and MassDEP are also providing support during the town's demolition of five homes on Bates Street and the nearby Pizza Factory building. EPA is providing air monitoring and sampling support. MassDEP has an asbestos inspector on-site full-time to observe demolition activities, and to ensure that asbestos containing materials are identified and properly managed. By the end of the week, demolition will be completed at the five homes and the Pizza Factory.

□ Demolition activities have begun at the Liberty Marina. MassDEP is working closely with the Town of Danvers and the owners of the Liberty Marina to oversee these activities.

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Highlights & Reminders

√ EPA and MassDEP will join Danvers Town Manager Wayne Marquis at a **neighborhood meeting in the cafeteria of the Riverside School at 7 p.m. on December 20th**.

√ On **Tuesday, December 19th, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, MassDEP is sponsoring a neighborhood household hazardous waste collection day**. Residents of homes damaged by the Danversport explosion may bring oils, paints, and other household hazardous wastes to a collection point in front of 11 Bates Street during this time period.

√ Additional Information on the project can be found at: www.danvers.govoffice.com or www.epa.gov/ne/danvers.

√ Please update your project contact list with the attached list of telephone numbers.

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□ On Tuesday, December 19th from 8 am to 12 noon, MassDEP is sponsoring a neighborhood household hazardous waste collection day. Residents of homes damaged by the Danversport explosion may bring oils, paints, and other household hazardous wastes to a collection point in front of 11 Bates Street during this time period. Please note that the Town of Danvers has made separate arrangements to help residents dispose of appliances, including refrigerators, air conditioners, televisions, and computer monitors; additional details are available at the Town's office trailer located at the intersection of Riverside and Water Streets.

□ On-site workers are dressed in personal protective gear while performing their jobs. This level of protection, which includes impermeable white suits and possibly respirators or air tanks, is required by federal laws.

□ The perimeter of the site remains secured to prohibit trespassing and to control access to the work area. Anyone arriving on site is required to check in at EPA's office trailer which is accessed through the fence off of Bates Street.

Air Monitoring

EPA and MassDEP continue to sample the ambient air in the vicinity of the site and to have the sampling data reviewed by Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) officials. To date, ambient air monitoring results collected in the vicinity of the site and nearby neighborhood do not indicate a health concern. ATSDR issued the following statement after evaluating EPA's fifth round of air sampling data (collected on December 5th):

"ATSDR and MDPH conclude that none of the concentrations of any of the contaminants detected in the fifth round of sampling (collected on December 5th) represent a health concern under the exposure conditions expected at this site."

EPA and MassDEP, with input from ATSDR and MDPH, have developed an Ambient Air Sampling and Monitoring Plan to support the removal operations. The sampling and monitoring plan has been put in place to protect the health of residents in the vicinity of the site during the removal of the chemical and hazardous waste materials from the site. The plan includes sampling the air at the periphery of the site for VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and continuous air monitoring within the

boundary of the site during removal operations. In addition, MassDEP is analyzing air samples from the Bates and Riverside Streets neighborhood throughout the day at an on-site laboratory. If elevated levels of contaminants are detected within the work area or neighborhood, EPA will assess the work activities, conduct follow-up air monitoring, and modify the work activities as necessary.

To ensure the safety of residents located near the site, EPA and MassDEP will respond to residential reports of odors by providing real time air monitoring near the residence where the concern originated.

The Ambient Air Sampling and Monitoring Plan can be found on EPA's dedicated website for the Danversport Explosion: www.epa.gov/ne/danvers

Returning to Your Home

EPA and MassDEP will continue to work closely with state and local officials to ensure that you have all the information you need to protect yourself from any potential environmental hazards. If upon returning to your home, you observe household hazardous waste materials, such as paint thinners, that have been tipped over and spilled, any oil leaking around your home heating oil storage tank, or structural damage to your basement that could have damaged a buried oil feed line, please contact the MassDEP representative listed at the end of this update.

Project Contacts

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Project Websites

Town of Danvers:

www.danvers.govoffice.com

EPA New England:

www.epa.gov/ne/danvers