



MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT
OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Danversport Explosion

Neighborhood Update #4 - December 29, 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 continue to work closely with the Town of Danvers and other state and federal agencies to address the area impacted by the Danversport explosion. Below is an update on activities at the site. Additional information on the project and previous editions of this neighborhood update can be viewed on-line at: www.epa.gov/ne/danvers.

An Update on Field Activities

EPA has removed approximately 475 drums from the footprint of the former building. Of these, 233 drums are filled with solid material and 152 are filled with liquid. The drums have been secured and are currently being sampled. The sampling results will be used to make disposal decisions for each drum and to determine which off-site facility to ship the drums, containers, and other wastes for disposal. Ninety empty drums have also been removed and crushed in preparation for disposal.

Thirteen above ground process vats, ranging in size from 300 gallons to approximately 3000 gallons, have been examined and are either empty or contain varying volumes of material. The thirteen vats have been secured and are currently being sampled. The sampling results will be used to make a plan for emptying and disposing of the vats and their contents.

Demolition activities are nearing completion at the Liberty Marina. MassDEP is working closely with the Town of Danvers and the owners of the Liberty Marina to oversee these activities.

Highlights & Reminders

- √ Between 15 and 20 personnel are working on site from EPA, MassDEP, 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.
- √ 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.
- √ 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.
- √ Additional information on the project can be found at: www.danvers.govoffice.com or www.epa.gov/ne/danvers.

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.

EPA and MassDEP, with input from ATSDR and MDPH, developed an Ambient Air Sampling and Monitoring Plan to support the removal operations and protect the health of residents in the vicinity of the site during the removal of the chemical and hazardous waste materials from the site. If elevated levels of contaminants are detected within the work area or neighborhood, EPA and MassDEP first stop ongoing operations and then assess the work activities, conduct follow-up air monitoring, and modify the work activities as necessary. As an additional measure to ensure the safety of residents located near the site, EPA and MassDEP are responding 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 and available sampling data can be found on EPA's dedicated website for the Danversport Explosion: www.epa.gov/ne/danvers.

Completed Activities

7450 gallons of chemical solvents have been removed from underground storage tanks. This includes:

- 2700 gallons of Toluene
- 1850 gallons of n-butyl acetate
- 2900 gallons of Acetone

687 gallons of low concentrations of these same solvents mixed with rainwater and firefighting water have been removed from the above ground storage vats.

Approximately 31,000 gallons of rainwater from various storm events have been collected since the initial explosion.

Demolition has been completed at five homes along Bates Street, the Pizza/Bakery building, 120 & 122 Water Street, and the former plumbing building.

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Project Websites

Town of Danvers:

www.danvers.govoffice.com

EPA New England:

www.epa.gov/ne/danvers