



REMOVAL

1071 Main Street Site

Woburn, MA

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.



SITE DESCRIPTION

The 1071 Main Street Site ("Site") is comprised of two properties, a commercial property located at 1071 Main Street in Woburn and a portion of an adjacent residential property located at 1073 Main Street. The 1071 Main Street parcel is approximately 4.5 acres located in a primarily residential area and is a listed Disposal Site with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The 1071 Main Street property has a history of commercial and industrial use dating back to the early 20th century. The Woburn hide and leather tannery operated at the property from roughly 1928 until 1957. Subsequent operations at the property through 2015 included automotive and radiator repair shops, various warehouses, landscaping and construction services and a rubbish storage and disposal company. Due to historical operations, elevated levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and heavy metals (including trivalent chromium, lead and arsenic) have been detected in soil throughout the Site. The focus of EPA's current removal activities will be limited portions of the approximately 0.25-acre residential parcel which contain PCBs and elevated metal concentrations. Currently, 1071 Main Street is fenced and the portions with elevated surface contaminants on 1073 Main Street are also fenced.

SITE STATUS

EPA conducted soil sampling at the Site during 2019. The PCBs and metal concentrations collected by EPA met the criteria for a Time Critical Removal Action. In the fall of 2019, MassDEP's contractor applied a spray-on encapsulant material to the contaminated soil and debris piles. The encapsulant is a non-toxic, biodegradable liquid concentrate that

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is added to water and is applied using a fire hose. The encapsulant dries clear to form a crust on the surface of the piles that will prevent dust migration and soil erosion for up to 6 months from the initial application.

On April 28, 2020, MassDEP and its contractor again returned to the Site and applied a second application of a spray-on encapsulant material to the large soil and debris piles on the 1071 Main Street portion of the Site. EPA is moving forward with the cleanup of the residential parcel, starting with tree clearing and the delivery of equipment during the week of June 15, 2020. Until further actions are implemented on the 1071 Main Street property by the property owner (or other party) to stabilize the soil and debris piles, MassDEP will continue to evaluate the need for additional applications of encapsulant to secure the piles.

FUTURE WORK

It is anticipated that during the week of June 22 excavation of soils will commence. The excavation and restoration activities are projected to take approximately 5-8 weeks. EPA is planning to conduct operations from approximately 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. Occasionally, there will be trucks bringing equipment, transporting soil and bringing in backfill to support operations which may have a slight impact on traffic. EPA contractors will also be wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), e.g., respirators and coveralls. During the performance of the removal action, EPA and its contractors will continuously 1.) monitor the air for any Site related dust, 2.) maintain control of the work areas to exclude the public from physical hazards and 3.) ensure nearby residents are not affected by EPA's activities. As cleanup moves forward, contaminated soil will be covered and secured with heavy duty plastic sheeting on the 1071 Main Street property temporarily while awaiting shipment offsite to an EPA-approved facility.