



Detailed Incident Report

"Please Note: Many spill site addresses are not field verified and may only be rough approximations."

Report Parameters

Search Text	majestic	City	All
County	All	Region	All
Begin Date	7-Dec-2015	End Date	9-Dec-2020
Date Prepared	Tue Dec 8 2020 at 10:26:01 PST	Prepared By	Bryn Thoms
Number of Records:	1		

Detailed Incident Report for OERS #2020-2919: (Poison Control update to Hg Spill in K Falls)

General Information

OERS #	2020-2919
OERS Staff	Sturm, Heather
File Name	Poison Control update to Hg Spill in K Falls
Fund Code	—
Incident Status	On-Going
Last Updated	Wed Dec 2 2020 at 13:00:49 PST

Report

Release Date	Sun Nov 22 2020 at 14:36:00 PST
Reporting Party	Loren Girsberger - Oregon Poison Center
Reporting Party Phone	800-222-1222
DEQ Contact	Ray Hoy

Spill Location

Address	5543 S 6th Street
City	Klamath Falls
State	OR
Zip Code	97603
County	Klamath
Region	Eastern
Latitude (Decimal Degrees)	42.207
Longitude (Decimal Degrees)	-121.721

Responsible Party

Name	—
Organization	—

Release

Release Date	Sun Nov 22 2020 at 14:36:00 PST
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Cause Other

Activity Other

Weather —

Description of Release Oregon Poison Center reported the ingestion of mercury and possible spill on to the floor of a motel. Motel/Hotel Name and phone: Majestic Inn and Suites 541-883-7771 Poison Control was very concerned about the cleanup methods that might be used as this is very hazardous.

Release Information

<u>Material</u>	<u>Release Source</u>	<u>Quantity Released</u>	<u>Unit of Measure</u>	<u>Media Affected</u>
Mercury	Other	—	—	Building or Facility

Incident Notification

<u>Contact Method</u>	<u>Performed By</u>	<u>Time of Contact</u>	<u>Date of Contact</u>	<u>Contact Organization</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Phone Call	Jamie Collins	10:00:00 PST	Mon Nov 23 2020	Oregon Health Authority	971-246-1789
Initial contact with OHA Duty Officer.					

Tracking Task Information

<u>Task Date</u>	<u>Task Time</u>	<u>Reporting Organization</u>	<u>Person Reporting Tracking Task</u>
Wed Dec 2 2020	08:00:00 PST	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	Jamie Collins
<p>Calls from Bob Krueger, Leilani with FSE. FSE team was in room today to perform assessment. There was a jar of elemental mercury sitting on table and visible droplets on floor. Bob said he advised owner (b) (6) that FSE would seal and overpack the Hg, then remove, bag, and overpack carpet, all fabric dressings, and bedding. Items would be left in overpacks in secure location on hotel premises pending approval for disposal by Stericycle; FSE not planning to take waste back to their operating location. I said I concurred with the proposed plan and looked forward to moving forward with it at earliest possible opportunity. Bob said he was waiting to hear back from (b) (6) with final approval as costs could be significant.</p>			
Wed Dec 2 2020	10:51:00 PST	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	Jamie Collins
<p>Received call from attorney representing RP (503-329-6315). He said (b) (6) is concerned about cost of remediation and that FSE is pressuring him into signing a work agreement. He wanted names of other contractors to obtain additional quotes for the work. I again provided contact info for US Ecology, and said I had already provided same to both Mr. and Ms. (b) (6). I advised him that the time for negotiation was over as the actual release occurred nearly two weeks ago, and I said I had provided both of the (b) (6) with ample notice of their responsibilities under the law. He said he did not think the (b) (6) understood the seriousness of the situation until this morning, which I refuted; this would mean they ignored the information passed in repeated communications with DEQ and the US EPA over the past two weeks. He said (b) (6) told him his insurance was unlikely to cover the cost as it fell under the pollution exclusion, and would thus have to pay out of pocket. I told him I appreciated this concern but the pollution needed to get cleaned up. I said I expected to hear back from him, FSE or the (b) (6) by the end of the day today that the work was moving forward.</p>			
Wed Dec 2 2020	11:17:00 PST	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	Jamie Collins

Leilani Thatcher (FSE) advised by email that (b) (6) still has not signed a work agreement.			
Mon Nov 30 2020	09:20:00 PST	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	Jamie Collins
Left voicemail message for RP rep (b) at (b) (6) requesting status update.			
Mon Nov 30 2020	14:00:00 PST	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	Jamie Collins
Call from Bob Krueger with First Strike Environmental (FSE). FSE was contacted by owner-operator today with request for evaluation and remediation. Headed out to site tomorrow (12/1) for assessment. Bob said he would call and update me when his team was able to take a look at the room. He said he advised (b) (6) of the possible expense associated with disposal of mercury-containing carpet, blinds, etc.			
Mon Nov 23 2020	10:00:00 PST	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	Jamie Collins
Call to OHA duty officer (Peter). He is the oncoming OHA DO and got some sort of incomplete passdown from whoever was on duty for OHA over the weekend. He is going to get some information on waste disposal and some recommendations on the hotel room from the toxics folks at OHA. Said he was headed into a meeting but would call me back before noon.			
Mon Nov 23 2020	10:18:00 PST	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	Jamie Collins
Note for record: See OERS incident 2020-2913 for initial report. Sky Lakes Medical Center (2855 Daggett Ave., Klamath Falls) may also be affected. Patient was transported from hotel at address in this incident to the hospital. Contact at Sky Lakes Medical Center is Julie Wolf, 541-274-6175.			
Mon Nov 23 2020	11:46:00 PST	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	Jamie Collins
Callback from Peter (OHA DO). After speaking internally with OHA environmental health/toxicology folks, OHA has "done its due diligence" and is leaving it up to DEQ/EPA to "clean up the mess," to whatever extent desired. OHA not taking further action.			
Mon Nov 23 2020	12:00:00 PST	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	Jamie Collins
Callback from Eric Nuchims, the EPA R10 duty OSC, 206-507-9826. EPA standing by to assist as needed. he said NRCES/US Ecology is probably only contractor qualified to do the room cleaning. I said I would touch base again w/hotel manager and discuss plans for cleaning/monitoring/analytical. Eric said best case was that room has a concrete floor -- easier to clean (once carpet is removed) than a residential structure with a wooden floor. EPA would like a callback no matter what the resolution.			
Mon Nov 23 2020	12:11:00 PST	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	Jamie Collins

Spoke with (b) (6), manager on duty at the Majestic Inn, 541-883-7771. She asked me to email some directions/guidance to (b) (6), which she said she would then forward to the owner/manager. I stressed that I would like a callback.

Mon Nov 23 2020 12:33:00 PST Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Jamie Collins

-----Original Message----- From: COLLINS Jamie Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 12:33 PM To: (b) (6) Cc: 'VAN-PATTEN Kimberlee' Subject: Guidance on testing/remediation following mercury ingestion at the Magestic Inn Good Afternoon, The Department of Environmental Quality, after consulting with U.S. EPA and the Oregon Health Authority, is recommending that the room in which the mercury ingestion occurred this weekend be tested for mercury contamination and, if necessary, remediated. This remediation could include removal and disposal of any contaminated objects such as carpet or bed linens, and cleaning of surfaces such as walls or floors. While DEQ does not and cannot endorse a particular contractor for this work, EPA has recommended you contact US Ecology, a contractor with offices in Seattle and Redding, California. Explain to the operator that you require mercury monitoring and/or remediation in a hotel room where a mercury ingestion occurred. US Ecology can be reached at 800-899-4672. Alternatively, you can search Google (or similar) for mercury cleanup or abatement. Please use me know what arrangements you have made once you make them. Very respectfully, Jamie Collins --- Jamie Collins State On-Scene Coordinator Eastern Region Oregon Department of Environmental Quality 475 NE Bellevue Dr., Suite 110 Bend, OR 97701 541-633-2010 (office) (b) (6) (mobile) 541-388-8283 (fax) Unsure when and how you should report an oil spill or release of hazardous materials in the State of Oregon? Visit <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/env-cleanup/Pages/How-To-Report-A-Spill.aspx>

Mon Nov 23 2020 13:51:00 PST Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Jamie Collins

Received call from (b) (6), owner-manager, (b) (6). She stated she is located remotely in (b) (6) but would be coordinating from there. I explained the potential hazard posed by the Hg if it was on any surfaces/objects such as carpets, walls, bed linens, wooden floors etc. She had initially intended to send her own employees into the room to perform some sort of cleaning, but I explained that the level of PPE and expertise likely exceeded that of her hotel employees, and that she would be placing them/her guests at risk. She assured me she would identify a contractor to perform testing/analysis and any necessary remediation; I provided her with contact information for US Ecology and encouraged her to search for other contractors. She said the building is cinder block & brick construction, which would make remediation easier if the carpeting needs to be removed. I stressed the importance of leaving the room secured & barred to entry -- even for her employees -- until the contractor can access & assess. She said she would call me back by the end of the day with a plan.

Mon Nov 23 2020 18:44:00 PST Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Jamie Collins

Called (b) (6) again; she hasn't made definitive arrangements with a contractor yet and I emphasized the urgent nature of the threat. She assured me she would give me a call back first thing tomorrow (11/24) morning.

Mon Nov 23 2020 19:02:00 PST Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Jamie Collins

-----Original Message----- From: COLLINS Jamie Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 7:02 PM To: (b) (6) Cc: 'Nuchims, Eric'; GREENBURG Michael J; 'VAN-PATTEN Kimberlee' Subject: Action needed: OERS 2019-2919 - Possible elemental mercury contamination, Majestic Inn, Klamath Falls Ms. Patel: Good to speak again on the phone a few minutes ago. I want to confirm that you are taking action to contain and, if necessary, remediate the possible release of mercury that occurred at the Majestic Inn this weekend. When we spoke earlier today, you assured me you were going to make arrangements with a competent contractor and get back to me by the end of the day with your plan. This did not occur. I am glad to hear that the room is still secure, windows/doors shut and heat turned down, as recommended in this guidance in the EPA: <https://www.epa.gov/mercury/what-do-if-you-spill-more-mercury-amount-thermometer> Please continue to maintain the security of the room until your contractor can access it and perform an assessment. I want to emphasize two things: 1. Possible severity of the release: Mercury, even in small amounts that you cannot see, can be extremely dangerous. This would apply to employees and future guests at your hotel. 2. Legal

obligation to take action: You have a legal obligation to take action and ensure the threat to the public is mitigated. I am copying Mr. Eric Nuchims, an On-Scene Coordinator with the U.S. EPA, who is also tracking this situation with great interest. I look forward to hearing back from you first thing tomorrow morning. Very sincerely, Jamie Collins --- Jamie Collins State On-Scene Coordinator Eastern Region Oregon Department of Environmental Quality 475 NE Bellevue Dr., Suite 110 Bend, OR 97701 541-633-2010 (office) (b) (6) (mobile) 541-388-8283 (fax) Unsure when and how you should report an oil spill or release of hazardous materials in the State of Oregon? Visit <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/env-cleanup/Pages/How-To-Report-A-Spill.aspx>

Sun Nov 22 2020	15:00:00 PST	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	Ray Hoy
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Poison Control called w concerns that the Magestic Inn Suites in K Falls "might" have Hg spilled on the floor of the room. I spoke w PC and explained that I would call the hotel to warn them that they should not clean the room. I spoke with (b) (6) at (b) (6) at the hotel to let them know they should not enter or clean the room until further instruction. The hotel receptionist complied and said no one has entered the room since the patient has left the room as of yesterday.

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