



Former Cass Toy Company Site Athol, 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.



INTRODUCTION

Located at 62 Canal Street in Athol, Massachusetts in a residential and commercial area, the Site was previously a portion of the former N.D. Cass Company which manufactured products ranging from large pianos and drums to wooden toys from the late 1890s to 1997. During the year of 2012, a large fire engulfed the building which resulted in several debris piles. In 2017, the Town of Athol collected samples from five debris piles on the Site for asbestos analysis. Two of the five piles indicated the presence of asbestos. On February 18, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) referred the Site to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

EPA'S INVOLVEMENT AND PRIOR WORK

On March 6, 2020, EPA started an environmental investigation. During the investigation, approximately 100 cubic yards (cy) of asbestos containing material (ACM) fire debris were observed in loose form as well as 250 cy of comingled fill material and fire debris. The piles of ACM were in various stages of degradation, exposed to the elements, and unsecured from nearby residents. Evidence of trespassers was observed at the property during the Site Investigation.

NEXT STEPS/WHAT TO EXPECT

The cleanup actions that EPA will be taking include the removal of ACM debris piles and surface soils contaminated with asbestos. When ACM debris piles and surface soils are removed, EPA will backfill any surface soils removed with clean soil.

Starting mid-October 2020, as cleanup work begins, residents should expect to see personnel and heavy equipment working around the Site. Normal working hours will be between 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM, Monday to Friday. The removal action is scheduled to be completed within 2-3 weeks once activities begin. During the entire removal action, EPA will perform daily air monitoring and implement dust control and suppression for worker and public health protection, as needed. EPA estimates that several trucks per day will be travelling along Linden Park Road to transport and dispose the wastes generated from the Site. All wastes will be disposed at EPA approved facilities.

KEY CONTACTS:

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