

EPA Emergency Response Situation Report

Mercury Spill in Lead, SD

December 25, 2022

Safety Message

Levels of mercury in student's residence are hazardous. Levels of mercury in the Lead-Deadwood High School (High School) are elevated. Do not enter the residence or High School without appropriate personal protective equipment.

EPA is offering to screen additional homes in Lead, SD for elemental mercury, at no cost to property owners. If you have questions about the process for home screening, **please contact: 605-646-3160**.

Response Objectives

- Safety of the public and response personnel is top priority.
- Stabilize source areas to prevent the spread of mercury.
- Minimize or, if possible, eliminate threats to human health posed by the mercury.
- Provide timely and accurate communication of response information to the public and affected stakeholders.



Photo Description: EPA's Response Team treating the surfaces of the Welding Shop table with a solution to chemically react with the mercury and create a non-hazardous solution.

Operations Period December 25, 2022

Period Objectives

The objectives of this Operations Period were to:

1. Continue decontamination efforts at the High School, inclusive of the welding shop.
2. Response operations at the student's residence were continued.

Period Accomplishments

At the High School, EPA's Response Team performed a clearance screening in the Math room on the fourth floor (room 409). The 8-hour screening averaged numbers below the Action Level. The High School currently has 86 of 91 rooms ready for final inspection.

EPA continued the removal action at the Welding Shop of the High School. Hard surfaces were treated with a solution to chemically react with the mercury and create a non-hazardous product. The room will be heated and vented before additional screening is performed.

The Response Team continued to process household items and decontamination efforts at the student's residence.

To date, EPA has been contacted by 12 property owners for additional screening. Twelve (12) homes have been screened to date. All were positive for mercury. Eight (8) homes had minimal levels and no action was required. Four (4) homes were cleared after removal of clothing and book bag.

Next Steps

The High School will be closed on December 26th due to the Holiday Break. EPA's Response Team will continue decontamination and screening procedures during the Holiday Break.