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# EPA Begins Removing Drums Filled With Chemicals

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**Texas Township Drum Site**  
Texas Township, Michigan

October 2008

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## Public Meeting

EPA will hold a meeting to discuss its activities at the Texas Township Drum site:

**Tuesday, Oct. 21, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Texas Township Hall**  
**7110 W. Q Ave.**

## For more information

If you have questions or comments about the cleanup at the Texas Township Drum site, contact one of these EPA team members:

### P.C. Lall

On-scene Coordinator  
Superfund Division  
EPA Region 5  
734-692-7685  
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### Don de Blasio

Community Involvement  
Coordinator  
Superfund Division  
EPA Region 5  
312-886-6430  
deblasio.don@epa.gov

### On the Web:

[www.epa.gov/region5/sites/texas/](http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/texas/)

### Region 5 toll-free:

800-621-8431,  
9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., weekdays

### EPA Region 5

77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has begun removing about 500 drums full of laboratory and industrial chemicals from a farm at 10135 W. O Ave, Texas Township, Mich.

The drums were damaged in a fire while stored in a pole barn at the property. Federal, state and local emergency response teams have determined that there is no immediate danger to nearby residents and the environment, but there is a potential threat if the materials are allowed to remain on-site.

Six of the drums contain radioactive material and will be sent to a disposal site licensed to accept radioactive waste. They are being handled separately.

The cleanup process will include identifying materials in the drums to be sure they are packaged and disposed of properly. In addition to radioactive materials, a preliminary assessment has determined that the drums contain a variety of hazardous chemicals, mercury and biological waste in three areas of the property. Some of the drums contain materials that are incompatible with each other and could react if moved improperly. Air monitoring is continuing in all three areas.

Cleanup costs have reached about \$350,000 so far. EPA will investigate how and why the drums were stored at the farm.

## Background

Emergency responders became aware of the potential danger after a fire Aug. 20. During an investigation, first responders discovered charred drums stacked in the pole-barn and contacted the EPA Emergency Response Branch. The investigation revealed charred 55-gallon drums containing various hazardous materials and biological waste in the pole barn, along a trail on the property and in a recently excavated pit.



Some of the drums found at the Texas Township farm