

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
INITIAL POLLUTION REPORT**

Date: May 25, 2004

From: Carter Williamson, OSC
US EPA Region IV

To: Regional Response Center, 4WD-ERRB
Gary Andrew, GAEPD

I. GENERAL SITE INFORMATION

Site Name: Bio-Labs Chemical Fire.
Street Address: 1700 Old Covington Hwy.
City, County, State, Zip code: Conyers, Rockdale County, Georgia
Latitude and longitude: N 33° 39' 27" W 84° 0' 33"
Site Id: A4EY
State Notification: GA EPD
Incident Category: CERCLA Emergency Response
Start Date: May 25, 2004
Demobilization Date: TBD
Responding FOSCs: Ben Franco/Rick Jardine

II BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 5/25/04 a fire broke out at the Bio-Labs, Inc., Chemical Company warehouse at approximately 0415 hours (NRC report # 722896). The warehouse contains pool chemicals and oxidizers.

III. RESPONSE INFORMATION

Georgia EPD has responded as has state and local EMA. The responding agencies include EPA ERRB, ATSDR, CDC, Rockdale County Fire and Hazmat, Georgia EPD, and START. Television news crews are also present covering the incident.

OSCs Franco and Jardine mobilized to the site as well as START to conduct air monitoring activities. The Rockdale County Fire Department and EMA have evacuated a 5 mile path directly under the plume which is traveling at an Easterly direction away from the plant. A 1 mile evacuation radius around the facility has also been initiated. Nearby residences and businesses have been instructed to shelter in place and avoid contact with the plume cloud. Water is being used to help suppress the fire, however, due to the intense heat, local responders cannot access the site to conduct air monitoring. In the meantime, air monitoring will be installed along the plume path approximately one-quarter mile from the fire. The cause of the fire has not been determined.

In addition, EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft is being utilized to determine the size, shape, composition and concentration of gases in the plume. As a majority of the material stored at the warehouse is chlorine based, hydrochloric acid and bromine are compounds of concern.

Currently, the Rockdale County Fire Department continues fire fighting actions while EPA is conducting preliminary air monitoring in the vicinity of the fire.