

Factsheet on the Hatch Street Mercury Release in New Britain, CT

Background:

The site is located on Hatch Street in New Britain, Connecticut (the site). An estimated 8 fluid ounces of elemental mercury was released from a container within a private home. Elemental or metallic mercury is a shiny, silver-white metal, historically referred to as quicksilver, and is liquid at room temperature.

On August 8, the CT Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) was alerted to a possible mercury release by an area hospital after two children were admitted with symptoms similar to that of mercury poisoning. CT DEEP determined that mercury was released in a private home. The owners of the property were relocated with assistance from the local town to a hotel. On August 19, CT DEEP requested assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide long term housing for the owners, cleanup the spilled mercury, and trace and cleanup areas off-site where the mercury may have spread.

Activity To Date:

The CT DEEP mobilized to the area on Friday, August 19, to install a fence around the home to limit trespassing and potential exposure to mercury contamination in the home. EPA and its contractors hired a security detail that has also been put in place. EPA has secured alternate housing for the impacted family and is working closely with local and state health and environmental agencies to address their needs. EPA has been working to evaluate other locations where the mercury potentially may have spread away from the home. To date, there have not been any additional exposures of concern.

What To Expect:

In the coming days and weeks EPA and its contractors will be on site to measure mercury in the air inside the home. These measurements will help determine the options for cleaning the home. EPA and contractors will wear protective suits and equipment due to their direct contact with the mercury in the home. Work is expected to take several months. The security fence and physical security will remain in place. EPA will continue to coordinate with state and local officials to give status updates.

Further details will be available at: response.epa.gov/HatchStreet, EPA's Emergency Response website. Additional factsheets will be distributed as necessary. If you have any questions, please reach out to the U.S. EPA On- Scene Coordinator or the Community Involvement Coordinator for the site.

Helpful links:

- More information on mercury in general: <https://www.epa.gov/mercury>
- More information on mercury and your health: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/mercury/index.html> or the ToxFAQs on metallic mercury at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/TF.asp?id=1195&tid=24>
- Anyone with concerns about mercury exposure can consult their physician and/or their poison control center at 1-800-222-1222.

Site Contacts:

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