

The Unexpected ... It can happen

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# It did happen

- On November 4, 2006 at 1039 hours, the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) declared a Site Area Emergency based on a spill of formic acid following a removal of a lock out. Approximately 1500 gallons of formic acid leaked from the storage tank and was contained in the dike area.



- The Savannah River Operations Center (SRSOC) received notification of ~1500 gallon formic acid spill at the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF).
- Protective action of Remain Indoors was issued for the DWPF facility.
- SRSFD and HAZMAT were dispatched to the facility.



- SAE declared.
- On Site Protective Action Message issued (Remain Indoors for a 2 mile radius and downwind to the site boundary).
- Remote Workers notified.
- Public Address announcements.
- Selective Signal Terminal to control rooms.
- Radio all-call.
- Activation of ERO pagers.
- Initial Emergency Notification Form faxed (states, counties, Vogtle, DOE-HQ).



- Evacuation of Crackerneck (Wildlife Management Area).
- Forwarded remote worker call line.
- Reevaluated protective actions.
- Notified DOE-HQ (telephone).
- Follow-up call to states/counties.
- Air, Rail and River restrictions notifications.
- Barricades closed incoming/outgoing traffic.
- Initial notifications complete 1050 hours (22 minutes).



- Activated in 68 minutes.
- Evaluated protective actions for facility and site.
- EAL validated.
- Remote Worker accountability.
- Accountability of DWPF personnel.
- Weather Information and Display System (WINDS) transport models were developed using worst case and refined source term data.
- FMTs dispatched.
- IH professionals called in.



- Activated in 79 minutes (Aiken playhouse).
- Three press releases were developed and issued.
- One news conference was conducted.



# Responding Organizations/Agencies

- WSRC DWPF Management.
- SRS Operations Center (SRSOC).
- SRS ERO and Executive Team.
- WSRC Fire Department and Hazardous Material Team.
- Wackenhut Services Inc. Law Enforcement and Security.
- SCDHEC (South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control).





- No safety issues throughout event.
- Remote workers (Deer Hunters) missing, worked diligently to find these individuals to ensure their safety.
- Communications between work groups directly impacted by the emergency were very good.
- SRSOC demonstrated good teamwork; WSRC and WSI shared information and took the initiative to support each other, ensuring that tasks were completed. SRSOC personnel frequently checked with other members of the SRSOC staff to offer assistance.



- SRSOC handled over 3,200 calls (radio and telephone) during the five hour emergency.
- Good interactions with offsite agencies. In closing communication with the states of Georgia and South Carolina, SRS was commended for “reaching out” to stakeholders through all phases of the event and recovery.



- Additional planning is needed to consider impacts of extended/prolonged protective actions to employees.
- There is no defined spill cleanup agency on site.
- Numerous ERO members called SRSOC after pager notification rather than responding as directed by pager code.



- More consideration should have been given to other non-affected facilities.
  - Some control rooms secured process ventilation
  - Follow-up communications with other control rooms were poor



- A review of actions to minimize the impacts from a chemical release is needed. This should also include a review of the conservatism of EALs.



- Emergency Director Philip Breidenbach made the following statement: “The EOC works, we responded like we trained”.
- WSRC President Robert Pedde issued the following statement in an SRS employee communication: “We undertake many emergency preparedness drills each year, and our performance under the pressure of the ‘real thing’ demonstrated that those drills have trained us well.”



- There were no injuries, no release to the environment, and no equipment damage.
- All recovery operations have been completed.
- Response actions were found to be appropriate and in accordance with prescribed procedures.
- Personnel responded in a professional manner to ensure the safety of the site.



Questions?

