

Kern County Environmental Health Division

Hazardous Release/Spill Response Report

Service Request #: SR0023322				Cal OES #: 19-8206	
ER Name/Location: Mine outside of Ridgecrest Mercury, 4300 Hwy 395					
Latitude:		Longitude:		APN:	
Incident Start Date and Time: 12/21/2019 20:00:00		Incident Reported to KCEH Date and Time: 12/22/2019 20:40:00		Incident reported to KCEH by: alion Chief Joshua Stinnett with Kern Co	
Responsible Party: David Doremus Mine 4300 Highway 395 RIDGECREST, CA 93555					
Type of Incident and Materials Involved: Other - explained in Narrative					
Name of Material	Quantity Released	Unit of Measure	Physical State	Source of Release	
Mercury	Pint		LIQUID	Other Individual Threw a jar of it	
Location: Rural		Site: Highway/Freeway		Media Impacted: Other - Explained in Narrative	
On-Scene Activities (check all that apply):					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barriers Established <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter in Place <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitalization - Responders					
<input type="checkbox"/> Road Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Evacuation <input type="checkbox"/> None					
<input type="checkbox"/> Road Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitalization - Civilians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - explained in Narrative					
Clean Up Activities:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Contain and Remove <input type="checkbox"/> Sweep Down <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None					
<input type="checkbox"/> Neutralization <input type="checkbox"/> Wash Down <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - explained in Narrative					
<input type="checkbox"/> Absorption <input type="checkbox"/> Evaporation					
Clean Up Performed By:					
City		County		State	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Materials <input type="checkbox"/> Police <input type="checkbox"/> Roads <input type="checkbox"/> Public Works <input type="checkbox"/> Other		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Health <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire <input type="checkbox"/> Fire - Hazardous Materials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sheriff <input type="checkbox"/> Roads <input type="checkbox"/> Public Works <input type="checkbox"/> Ag Department <input type="checkbox"/> Other Building Department		<input type="checkbox"/> CDF <input type="checkbox"/> CHP <input type="checkbox"/> Cal Trans <input type="checkbox"/> Fish & Wildlife <input type="checkbox"/> DTSC <input type="checkbox"/> RWQCB <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
				Federal	
				<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Service <input type="checkbox"/> BLM <input type="checkbox"/> EPA <input type="checkbox"/> China Lake NAWS <input type="checkbox"/> Edwards AFB <input type="checkbox"/> FBI <input type="checkbox"/> Homeland Security <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Contacts:					
Name	Title	Agency/Company	Phone	Email	
Josh Shotwell	Deputy	Kern County Sheriff			
Joshua Stinnett	Battalion Chief	Kern County Fire Department	(661) 330-0169	jstinnett@kerncountyfire.org	
Primary Responder: GENE BLAIR			Secondary Responder:		

Narrative:

Friday, January 10, 2020 10:28 AM - GENE BLAIR

At approximately 2000 on 12/21/2019 Kern County Sheriff responded to 4300 Hwy 395 in Ridgecrest California for a domestic disturbance. Upon arrival a Deputy made contact with a female subject who reported that a male subject threw mercury all over her and the kitchen. There was no longer a domestic disturbance and the deputy left the scene.

At approximately 2000 on 12/22/2019 Kern County Sheriff and Kern County Fire responded to a wellness check at 4300 Hwy 395 in Ridgecrest California. While in route Kern County Battalion Chief Joshua Stinnett noticed the call involved mercury and contacted the Sheriffs who were on scene and advised them of the hazards when dealing with mercury. He then contacted Kern County Environmental Health's Emergency Response team at approximately 2041 on 12/22/2019. I then responded to the address in Ridgecrest Ca where I met with battalion chief Stinnett and engine 77. Upon arrival I isolated the deputies who were on site and began to survey them with the lumex. The highest readings were 200 Nanograms on one of the deputies' boots which is below thresholds. After confirming the deputies were not contaminated, I then turned my attention to the dwelling in which the mercury was suspected to be released. I began to survey at the door way and once I broke the plane of the door way I immediately had readings over 1800 nanograms. I then backed out and began to discuss decontamination procedures with fire and sheriff. We then asked the building department to dispatch someone to red tag the building. At this time, the female was isolated to a bus style RV that was parked on site. We asked the female subject if we could survey her and her two dogs. She refused to let us survey her dogs but allowed me to briefly survey her. I had her hold up her hands as if she was holding water and began to survey the readings were peaking at about 250 nanograms. At this point I advised her to be decontaminated which she refused and told me "this is a gold mine there is gonna be mercury and always will be I aint getting decontaminated". I then took readings from just inside her RV which spike to about 2,000-2,500 nanograms almost immediately. I then advised her again that she should not be in the RV and should go through decontamination with her dogs, she refused again. She then returned to the RV and shut the door. At approximately 0430 the building department showed up to red tag the structure on site, they did inform me that they were unable to red tag the RV due to it not being their jurisdiction. We then spoke to the female one more time urging her to go through decontamination and finding somewhere else to stay until the mercury can be cleaned up and she refused once again. At this point it was approximately 0500 and I departed the scene.

At approximately 1500 on 12/23/2019 I contacted CalOES and submitted a report to them (OES# 19-8206) and contacted the DTSC duty officer (Carlos Orega). At approximately 1509 DTSC said they were unable to help with the clean up due to the cost associated with it.

At approximately 1516 on 12/23/2019 I contacted Brett with Fed EPA and requested assistance. We discussed the situation and determined with the levels that I had on the Lumex that they would feel comfortable doing the clean up but needed a right to access agreement from the owner of the property. I had attempted to contact the owner, David Derumes, the night before with no avail but attempted again at approximately 1615 and left another message with him.

At approximately 1720 on 12/23 I contacted Deputy Shotwell to follow up with the female subject at the site. When he arrived the female was no longer there and the place seemed to be empty. Due to this and not being able to get a hold of the owner the clean up has been put on hold until we are able to obtain right of access to the property.

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 4:26 PM - GENE BLAIR

This has been referred to Kern County Code Compliance.

AT THIS TIME THIS REPORT IS DRAFT ONLY AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Person Preparing Report:	Phone:	Report Date:
Agency: Kern County Environmental Health Division 2700 M Street, Suite 300 Bakersfield, CA 93301		Reviewed by: Review Date: