



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS CHANGE SUMMARY

Report:	MGPI Processing, Inc. Toxic Chemical Release
Recommendation Number:	2017-01-I-KS-R5
Date Issued:	January 3, 2018
Recipient:	Atchison County Department of Emergency Management
New Status:	Open – Acceptable Response or Alternate Response
Date of Status Change:	January 20, 2021

Recommendation Text:

Coordinate planning and training activities to ensure emergency responders within Atchison County are prepared for future incidents involving hazardous materials. The Atchison County Local Emergency Planning Committee should do the following:

- a) Review facility Risk Management Plans as they are submitted or revised and conduct pre-planning at Risk Management Program covered facilities and all other facilities within the county that, based on annual Tier II reporting forms, store large amounts of hazardous chemicals.*
- b) Conduct a full-scale hazardous materials exercise that involves an offsite chemical release scenario within the next three years. The exercise should include participants from local emergency response organizations, hospitals, schools, and fixed facilities. Identify and resolve coordination or communication issues identified during the exercise.*
- c) Increase participation in state and regional emergency response training and programs. Work with the Kansas Department of Emergency Management to submit a Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant proposal to assist in funding additional training and pre-planning activities within the county.*

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

On October 21, 2016, a chemical release occurred at the MGPI Processing, Inc. (MGPI) plant in Atchison, Kansas. The release occurred when a chemical delivery truck, owned and operated by Harcos Chemicals, Inc. (Harcros) was inadvertently connected to a tank containing incompatible material. The plume generated by the chemical reaction led to a shelter-in-place order for thousands of residents. At least 120 employees and members of the public sought medical attention.

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) found that though the local emergency planning committee (LEPC), together with the Atchison County Department of Emergency Management (Atchison DEM), meet and hold training and exercises for area emergency responders throughout the year on a variety of topics, they did not include incidents at chemical facilities, or

more specifically, incidents involving accidental releases of unknown chemicals into the community. As a result, the CSB issued one recommendation to Atchison DEM to address those issues. This status change summary addresses CSB Recommendation No. 2017-01-I-KS-R5.

B. Response to the Recommendation

Atchison DEM responded that they have completed both A and B of the recommendation. They have conducted several full-scale exercises on the local chemical facility. They also stated that the LEPC has reviewed plans and has quarterly meetings where the local chemical facility has provided updates on new developments and changes to the chemicals on site at their facility. Lastly, they stated that due to burdensome administrative requirements and sufficient local funding they intend to implement the recommendation without the HMEP grant. Their intention is to provide all the supporting documentation for the recommendation prior to the end of calendar year 2020.

C. Board Analysis and Decision

As the above actions indicate a planned action that would satisfy the objective of the recommendation, most of which they state is already implemented, and Atchison DEM included a timetable for completion of the CSB recommendation, the Board voted to change the status of CSB Recommendation No. 2017-01-I-KS-R5 to: “Open – Acceptable Response or Alternate Response.”