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CONTRA COSTA HEALTH SERVICES

COMPLAINT, INCIDENT, AND NOTIFICATION REPORT FORM

Type (Circle One): C I N

Received Date: 01/12/17 Received Time: 9:12 am Received By: HW Lead: TA

Incident Date: 01/12/17 Incident Time: _____ Assigned to: _____ Assigned Date: _____

CASE NUMBER: 17-01-12 - 02

COMPLAINANT / REPORTING PARTY:

Name: SYLVIA ELIZARRARAZ RP is from Facility Anonymous

Organization: PITTSBURG HEALTH CENTER

Primary Phone Number: 925-705-5213 Secondary Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

FACILITY / LOCATION OF INCIDENT:

Name: PITTSBURG HEALTH CENTER CUPA Facility I.D.: 770122

Phone Number: 925-705-5213

Address: 2311 LOVERIDGE RD Unit: _____

City: PITTSBURG State: CA Zip Code: 94565

Location Description: _____

INITIAL INCIDENT DESCRIPTION: REFRIDGERATOR LEAKING FLUID - COMPLAINTS OF DIZZINESS AND SMELL/TASTE CHEMICAL.

INCIDENT TYPE / DESCRIPTION:

Community Warning System Level (Circle Highest Level): N/A 0 1 2 3

FACILITY	ISO / MCAR	TRANSPORTATION	MISCELLANEOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire or Explosion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spill or Release <input type="checkbox"/> Startup or Shutdown <input type="checkbox"/> Flaring <input type="checkbox"/> Upset	<input type="checkbox"/> Fatality (one or more) <input type="checkbox"/> > 24 hrs. Hospital, 3 or more people <input type="checkbox"/> Flammable Vapor Cloud > 5,000 lbs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Tank Truck <input type="checkbox"/> Railroad <input type="checkbox"/> On Water <input type="checkbox"/> Pipeline <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel Tank	<input type="checkbox"/> Storm Drain/Creek <input type="checkbox"/> Drug Lab <input type="checkbox"/> Disposal/Abandonment <input type="checkbox"/> Odor Complaint <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Time Enroute to Scene: 09:30 Time Arrived On Scene: See attached report Time Departed From Scene: 11:05

REFERRED TO OTHER AGENCY:

DTSC STATE FUNDING (if applicable):

CLU/ERER Number: _____

STORMWATER STATUS (if applicable):

Actual Discharge Potential Discharge



AGENCIES ON SCENE OR NOTIFIED:

<u>Agency Type</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>O/N</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Case Number</u>
Fire Department					
Law Enforcement					
Air District					
State OES					

REPORT:

See attached.


Additional Required Items: Bill of Lading, Request for Invoice, and Site Safety Plan

Report Prepared by: *Tasha Asuncion*

**CONTRA COSTA
HEALTH SERVICES**

INCIDENT REPORT

January 13, 2017

PREPARED BY: Trisha Asuncion, Hazardous Materials Specialist II
Contra Costa Health Services Hazardous Materials Programs (CCHSHMP) 

INCIDENT NO. 170112-02

INCIDENT DATE: January 12, 2017

LOCATION: Pittsburg Health Center, 3rd Floor
2311 Loveridge Rd.
Pittsburg, CA 94596

RESPONDING

TEAM MEMBER(S): Trisha Asuncion, Amanda Ackerman, Seth Heller, Devra Lewis, and Xavier Bryant

NARRATIVE

Ms. Sylvia Elizarraraz, Ambulatory Care Clinic Coordinator for Contra Costa Health Services, directly contacted CCHSHMP. She reported a possible chemical release on the third floor of the Pittsburg Health Center after the shutdown of a refrigerator, where vaccines were stored; and at least three staff members had experience some symptoms of chemical exposure. Asuncion asked that the exposed staff move to fresh air, and if any more occupants on the floor were also experiencing similar symptoms to evacuate the entire floor.

Earlier in the day, staff heard a loud rumble coming from the refrigerator and subsequently an alarm went off, which signaled that the temperature in the refrigerator was increasing. They removed the vaccines to another refrigerated unit and unplugged the refrigerator. Nevertheless, at least three staff members that had entered the room afterwards experienced dizziness, chest problems, and noted a strong chemical odor and odd taste in their mouths. One of the exposed staff members went home; those that went to fresh air felt better. Considering a possible refrigerant leak, the Health Center contacted their refrigeration systems contractor to help diagnose the issue. Additionally, the Health Center contacted CCHSHMP to help assess what chemical was released, if the release is still ongoing, and if the release can be mitigated.

En route to the Health Center, Asuncion contacted Sylvia for an update. No more individuals had felt sickened by the release. She had been inside the room, but did not feel any discomfort nor smell a distinct odor. Also, Massone Mechanical Inc., their contracted refrigeration repair servicer, had arrived on scene.

Ackerman, Lewis, and Heller arrived at the Health Center's loading dock in HM3/6868 at 09:48; followed by Asuncion and Bryant in HM1/6824 at 09:53. CCHSHMP met up with Jay and Sylvia at the loading dock. CCHSHMP brought several air monitoring equipment to the 3rd floor: halogen leak detector, QRAe 4-gas (LEL), PID, sulfur dioxide gas badge, and Drager tubes.



CCHSHMP proceeded to Room 3064 where the refrigerator was located. The door was closed on arrival. Kevin from Massone Mechanical Inc. was also on the 3rd floor. He assessed that there was a pin-hole leak from the copper tube that contains R-134A or freon. The refrigerator can carry about 11 ounces of freon.

CCHSHMP conducted air monitoring around the door. The halogen leak detector started to sound at the bottom of door. Heller determined that there was positive pressure inside the room, allowing the released freon to leave the room. Heller and Lewis placed medical tape seal the gap between the bottom of the door jamb and the floor. CCHSHMP discussed on how to remove the freon from the room, given that there was no operable window (one that can be propped open) inside the room to provide air exchange and ventilation. CCHSHMP spoke with Jay, who was responsible for CCHS facilities and had knowledge of the HVAC systems, if there was any way to make switch the room from positive pressure to negative pressure. This would facilitate evacuating the residual freon in the room to an exhaust. Jay, accompanied by Bryant (CCHSHMP), went to the roof to see if that could be done. In the interim, CCHSHMP had requested fans from Health Center staff in order to help air flow/exchange. During this time, there were no changes to the QRae and PID, with intermittent beeps from the halogen leak detector, which crept towards the middle and top of the door. At 10:30, Bryant texted Asuncion that they may have reversed the air flow in the room, which was confirmed.

At 10:39 Lewis entered the room to conduct air monitoring with the halogen leak detector. CCHSHMP held a brief safety briefing prior to going into the room. Lewis went in the room in Level D with an air-purifying respirator (APR). The halogen leak detector sounded around the area where the refrigeration unit was opened by Massone Mechanical. CCHSHMP determined that Massone Mechanical can continue working on the refrigerator in an open area in order to minimize the possibility of further exposures to residual refrigerant. At 10:47 Bryant and Heller removed the refrigerator from the room and moved it to the loading dock. CCHSHMP recommended that the room remained in negative pressure until the end of the business day. CCHSHMP departed the scene at

Sylvia had called CCHSHMP an hour later regarding the storage of the refrigerator. Massone Mechanical Inc. said that they would need to replace the compressor and had to order parts. She asked Asuncion if the refrigerator can be kept in a storage space that was not connected to the Health Center in a way that a subsequent release would impact Health Center staff and patients. Nevertheless, this storage space did not have adequate ventilation. Sylvia contacted Kevin, the Massone Mechanical technician that was working on the refrigerator, and along with Asuncion, the three had a three-way phone conference. Asuncion asked if there was any more freon in the unit. Kevin said that the unit was empty and did not contain any more freon. With that, Asuncion determined that the refrigerator would be fine inside the proposed storage space and not pose any further hazard/harm.

OTHER PERSONNEL ON SCENE/NOTIFIED

Kevin, Massone Mechanical Inc. (refrigeration repair services)

ATTACHMENT(S)

1/12/17 photos taken by Devra Lewis