



After Action Report: I. Schumann & Co. Facility Fire

Ohio EPA Emergency Response:

On Feb. 20, 2023, Ohio EPA Emergency Response (ER) staff responded to a facility fire at I. Schumann & Co. (I. Schumann) in Bedford to investigate the extent of environmental impacts, implement containment measures, and coordinate response actions with the local fire chief, who was incident commander.

The fire occurred in the production area of the facility, which is not an area where hazardous waste was stored.

ER initially completed a downstream survey and found no apparent water impacts or materials from the fire or fire suppression and observed no impacts to wildlife. Absorbent booms were installed downstream as a precaution. Additional earthen berms were placed at strategic points around the facility to either eliminate water runoff from inside the building or direct it to a low area used for water retention.

There are stationary air monitors that are operated by the City of Cleveland, Division of Air Pollution Control that monitor I. Schumann and Agmet, a neighboring facility, for total airborne metals, including lead. Data from the day following the fire did not show lead levels that would create a public health risk.

ER continued to visit the facility every day of the week of the fire to monitor and assist in coordinating clean-up activities.

Clean-up Activities

Any significant environmental incident in Ohio is followed by an assessment of long-term environmental cleanup needs. An environmental consultant, EnviroScience Inc. (EnviroScience) was hired by I. Schumann to manage and monitor the cleanup of this incident with Ohio EPA oversight. The following activities were and continue to be a part of cleanup and remediation activities:

Debris

Contractors retained by I. Schumann collected debris on and off site that was caused by the explosion. This material was evaluated and disposed of appropriately.

Air

A contractor retained by I. Schumann set up air monitors when clean-up activities began. A part of cleanup included the containment of dust within the damaged air pollution control system at the facility.

Soil

EnviroScience prepared a [sampling analysis plan \(SAP\)](#) to determine if off-site impacts from the incident occurred. This SAP was reviewed and approved by Ohio EPA. Soil sampling was performed north and south of Alexander Road and [analytical results](#) were submitted to Ohio EPA on June 20, 2023. Ohio EPA is working with I. Schumann and their consultant and evaluating these results based on overall protection of human health and the environment, as well as developing a path forward.

All the off-site sampling result concentrations were below levels that would be a concern for human health except for one result which was slightly over the protective standard for lead. However, there is no imminent threat to human health because the location of the sample is in an area where no public activity takes place. Currently, EnviroScience is developing solutions to address the sample to ensure protection of human health and the environment and discuss the options with Ohio EPA. Additional plans, as well as sampling and clean-up work, are forthcoming.

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Surface Water

EnviroScience assessed and evaluated storm drains and surface water to see if there were metals in sediment from firefighting water runoff. Sediment samples were collected from the retention and containment areas and from a tributary to Tinkers Creek, where discharge had occurred. Based on the sample results, a plan for further action will be proposed which will include removal of on-site impacted sediment.

Ohio EPA Continued Response

Ohio EPA continues to meet with I. Schumann and EnviroScience regarding the ongoing cleanup and sampling.

Air Monitoring

The City of Cleveland, Division of Air Pollution Control increased the frequency of their air monitoring at the two monitors near I. Schumann through July 2023. The results of the air monitoring show that since the day after the explosion, the 24-hour lead monitored values for every 24-hour period since are below the long-term three-month rolling air quality standard set by U.S. EPA. Both monitoring sites are well within U.S. EPA's air quality standards.

Moving Forward

Ohio EPA will continue to oversee clean-up activities and monitoring to protect human health and the environment. I. Schumann will be submitting additional sampling and clean-up plans which will be reviewed and approved by Ohio EPA to meet the company's clean-up obligations. Ohio EPA continues to engage I. Schumann's environmental consultants about their development of on-site clean-up plans. The on-site clean-up plans will address impacted areas at the I. Schumann facility. Once submitted, Ohio EPA will review and provide feedback and adjustments. Once the plan meets Ohio EPA expectations, Ohio EPA will approve the plan and expect I. Schumann to implement. During the clean-up, Ohio EPA will regularly inspect the progress made.

Contact

For more information, contact Jessica Langdon at Jessica.Langdon@epa.ohio.gov or 614.728.0035.