
EPA Undertakes Urgent Cleanup Action

Graveyard Auto Site

Clarksville, Indiana

May 2019

For more information

If you have questions, comments, or need more information about the EPA cleanup at Graveyard Auto, contact:

Shelly Lam

EPA On-Scene Coordinator
Region 5 Superfund Division
317-308-3073

lam.shelly@epa.gov

Site-related documents can be found at:

Jeffersonville Township Public Library

211 E. Court Ave.

On the web:

[https://response.epa.gov/
graveyardauto](https://response.epa.gov/graveyardauto).



EPA responders found hazardous waste on the overgrown Graveyard Auto site and will conduct a cleanup this spring and summer.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is cleaning up hazardous waste at the Graveyard Auto site located at 1320 Emery Crossing in Clarksville. The site was a former mobile home park from 1955-1983 and an auto scrap yard from 1983 to 2018.

EPA contractors will begin removing drums containing hazardous waste and soil containing arsenic, iron, lead, and other pollutants in late May. The cleanup is expected to take about 90 days to complete. EPA is moving quickly because the uncontrolled hazardous waste on the property poses an immediate threat to people and the environment.

The \$1.5 million cleanup includes securing storage drums, batteries and other containers; removing contaminated soil from pollution “hot spots;” backfilling excavated areas; restoring vegetation; and transporting hazardous material to a licensed off-site disposal area.

Residents may see workers wearing protective gear and suits. There will also be increased traffic due to trucks and heavy equipment. During the cleanup, which will occur weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., workers will take steps, such as air monitoring, to protect residents from the hazardous materials. Water is not affected since there are no known drinking water wells in the area. When EPA completes its cleanup, the site will be referred to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for any necessary follow-up.

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Site description

The 10.5-acre site is a mixed-use area bounded by Browns Station Way to the north, a residence and marine business to the east, an auto parts firm to the south and Silver Creek to the west. The creek drains into the nearby Ohio River.

The property contains several dilapidated buildings, mobile homes, vehicles and vehicle parts, an empty 25,000-gallon above-ground storage tank, numerous drums, batteries and compressed gas cylinders.

Open dumping

The Clark County Health Department and Indiana Department of Environmental Management have been investigating complaints about the property since 1993.


Open dumping, as well as burial of solid waste and construction debris, were apparently common practices on the site. From 2002 to 2010, waste such as old tires, roofing materials, batteries, cars, and a holding tank were found along Silver Creek and on the property. In 1998, about 100,000 tires reportedly caught fire.

When the town of Clarksville requested EPA's help last July, Agency responders used their authority under federal law to secure the site and prepare it for waste removal and cleanup this spring.

The cleanup is important because left uncontained, the waste could not only harm anyone entering the site but eventually move from the location and threaten drinking water and several endangered animal species in the area as well as the Falls of Ohio natural national landmark that is less than a mile from Graveyard Auto.



Some of the numerous drums containing hazardous materials found at Graveyard Auto.

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GRAVEYARD AUTO SITE: EPA Begins Urgent Cleanup of Hazardous Waste