



U.S. Department of Energy
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 @WIPPNews

WIPP UPDATE: April 9, 2014

Waste Hoist Tower cleanup underway

Today, WIPP crews began removing soot that accumulated in the Waste Hoist Tower and Control Room during the February 5 salt truck fire. They are using vacuums with high-efficiency particulate absorption (HEPA) filters to minimize dust before cleaning with detergent and water. Radiological surveys revealed no contamination in this area as a result of the February 14 event.

Next steps to identify source of WIPP underground contamination

Last week, workers entered the underground facility and established two bases in the mine once it was determined there was no radiological contamination in those areas. This is critical for the next phase of the re-entry process at WIPP because it provides a clean area where employees can safely remove any contaminated clothing and equipment before returning to the surface.

Workers are currently completing all necessary evaluations of personal protection equipment and other procedures associated with entering the waste disposal area, where it is currently believed the source of the radiological release is located. To ensure the safety of our workers, the public and the environment, workers will continue to conduct radiological surveys, assess industrial hazards, and evaluate mine safety.

Community Meetings Scheduled

April 10 - Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway and DOE will co-host a meeting featuring updates on WIPP recovery activities. The meetings will be held every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Location: Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 101 N. Halagueno Street. Live streaming of the weekly meetings can be seen at <http://new.livestream.com/rrv/>.

April 14 – WIPP update to the Jal City Council at 5:30 p.m. Location: 309 S. Main St.