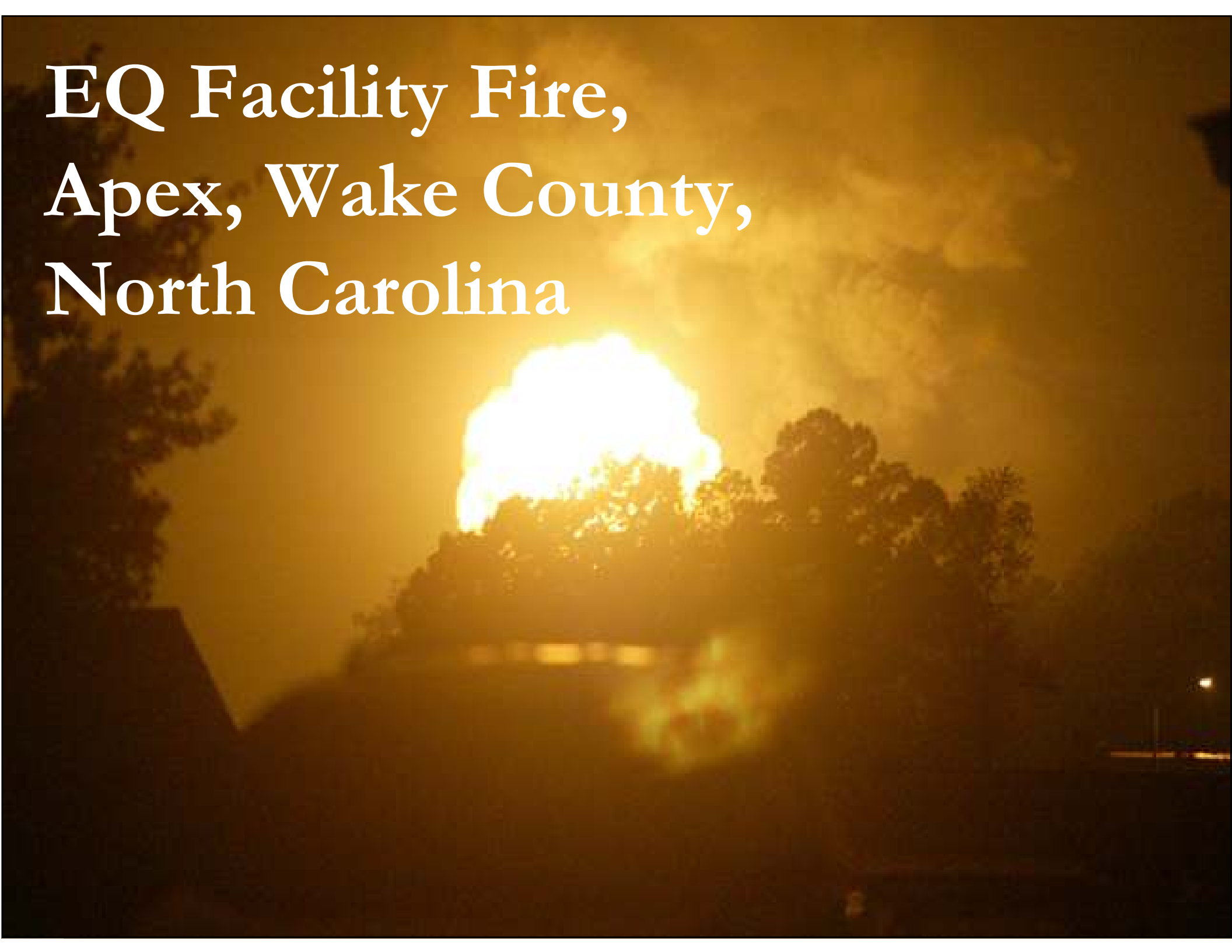


**EQ Facility Fire,
Apex, Wake County,
North Carolina**





What is EQ?



Environmental Quality Inc., (a.k.a. EQ) is a RCRA permitted waste management facility located in Apex, Wake County, North Carolina.

Regulated by North Carolina.

Fourteen (14) such EQ facilities in U.S.

EQ accepts hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, re-packages, as necessary, and arranges for treatment, recycling, and/or disposal.



EQ Facility Fire – Apex, Wake County, North Carolina

RCRA permitted waste management facility.

Incident:

- a. October 5, 2006 – (Approximately 11:00 PM) Facility fire results in evacuation of approximately 17,000 residents.
- b. Fire extinguished on October 7, 2006 (approx 3:00 AM).

Responders:

- a. Local and mutual aid fire and police departments.
- b. State Air, Water, Hazardous Waste.
- c. State and local health departments.
- d. Federal EPA, ATSDR, CSB.
- e. RP and RP contractors

Response:

- a. Fire and Police maintained and coordinated evacuation
- b. EPA, RP, State performed air monitoring
- c. EPA provided data management, GIS, and ATSDR support
- d. RP provided industrial fire fighting team to extinguish fire



The image features a repeating border of the EPA Emergency Response logo, which consists of a blue circle with a white gear icon, the text 'EPA' in white, and 'EMERGENCY RESPONSE' in red below it. The background is a dark brown gradient.

Lessons Learned

What Went Well

1. Initial decision not to fight fire.
 - a. Minimized runoff and kept fire burning hot (reduced emissions)
2. Evacuation
 - a. Reverse 911 all with door-to-door followup
3. Mutual aid.
 - a. At height of response over 300 fire fighters and police deployed
4. Deployment of industrial fire fighting team.
5. Data management and GIS.
 - a. EPA pulled data together from various sources to aid in decision making.
6. Designation of Public Information Officer.
 - a. PIO designated by Apex allowed for single voice.
7. Smooth transition to State lead oversight.
 - a. Post-fire cleanup planning and oversight passed to State.
8. State-lead off-site sampling of residential areas.
 - a. Planning and execution of off-facility sampling documented minimal off-site impacts.

The image features a decorative border at the top and left sides, consisting of a repeating pattern of the EPA Emergency Response logo. The logo is circular with a blue border, containing the text 'EPA' at the top and 'EMERGENCY RESPONSE' at the bottom, with a stylized globe in the center.

Lessons Learned

What We Can Improve On

1. Unified Command

- a. IC did not form full Unified Command
 - i. EPA left to coordinate oversight and data collection without full knowledge of IC decision making process and schedule.
 - ii. Unified objectives not formulated and communicated efficiently.
 - iii. Single State voice.

2. Management of Facility Inventory Database

- a. Inventory maintained within facility files and not available to first responders.
 - i. Off-site or on-line backup may be necessary.
- b. Sharing of Inventory Information with Local Responding Agencies
 - i. Locals indicated not kept up-to-date on nature of materials at facility.

3. Review and Implementation of Post-Fire Cleanup Plans.

- a. Nearly 10 days between time fire extinguished and cleanup work plans approved.
 - i. Some might have taken place during interim with oversight.