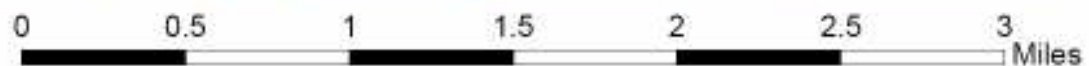
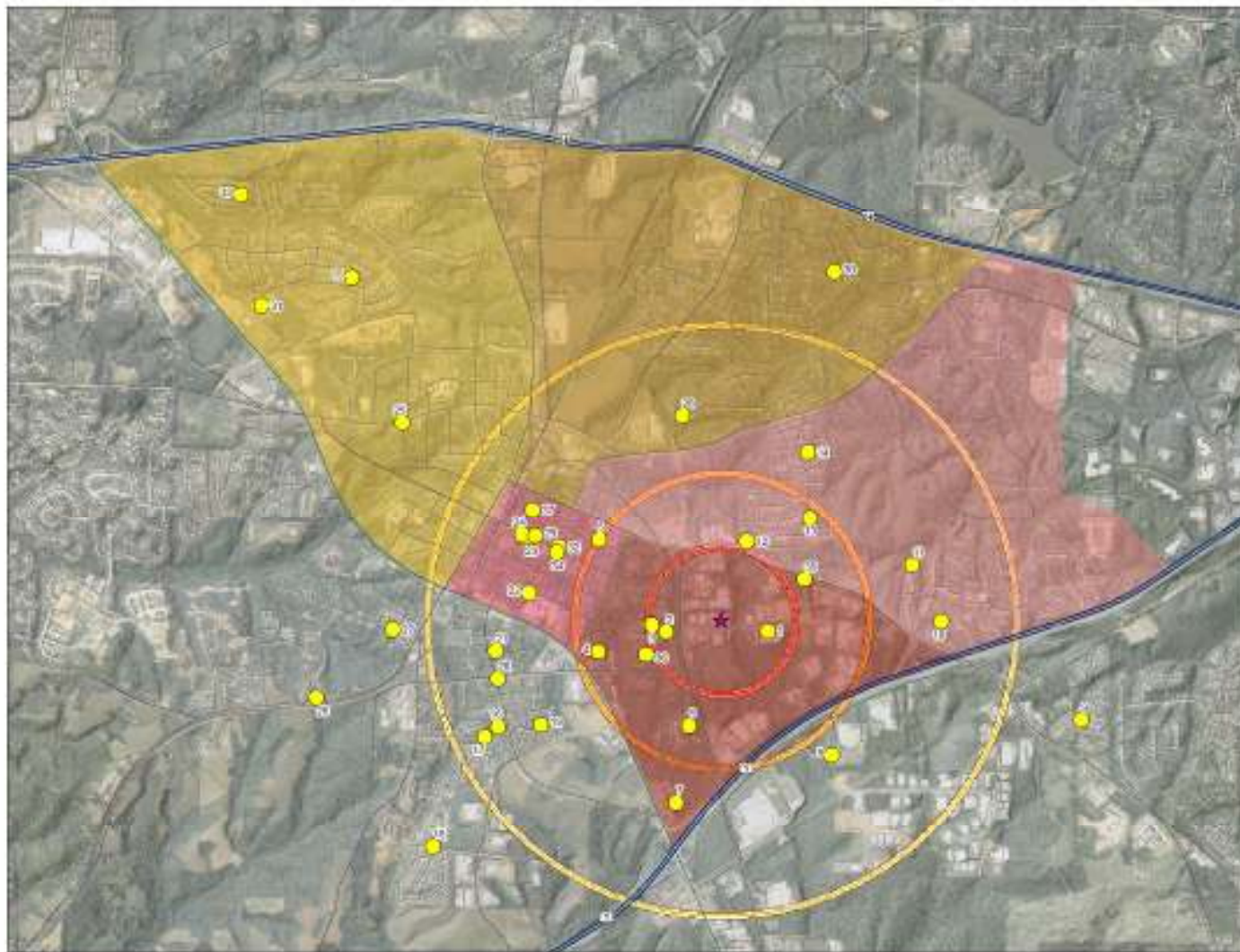


# **Fire at the EQ Industrial Services Facility in Apex, N.C.**



**Event Summary, After Action Lessons Learned, Governor's Task Force and Legislative Changes Made**



Vicinity Location Map



**Legend**

- Surface Sampling Locations
- ★ Apex EQ Location
- DOT Transportation**
  - Interstates
  - US Routes
  - NC Routes
  - NC SR
  - Local Rd
  - DOT Railroads
- Evacuation Zones**
  - Phase 1
  - Phase 2
  - Phase 3
  - Phase 4
  - Phase 5
- Distance Rings**
  - 0.25 Mile
  - 0.5 Mile
  - 1 Mile

**Surface Sampling Locations  
For Apex NC EQ Plant Incident**



# Event Summary

- Apex 911 receives reports of a vapor cloud. Local fire and law enforcement personnel responded to the reports and encountered a thick, white, chlorine-smelling cloud.
- Apex requests the Regional Response Team (RRT) HAZMAT based at the Raleigh Fire Department.
- Upon arrival, the RRT personnel reported that a fire was burning at the Environmental Quality (EQ) Industrial Services facility -- one of 11 commercial hazardous waste transfer, storage and disposal (TSD) facilities regulated by the NCDENR Division of Waste Management.
- Apex Fire Department established incident command and requested assistance from other local communities, Wake County and the State.
- The NCDENR Division of Air Quality Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory (MAML) was dispatched together with personnel from the Divisions of Waste Management and Water Quality. Other State responding agencies included the State Highway Patrol, State Emergency Management, a State Medical Assistance Team (SMAT), personnel from the DHHS Division of Public Health and a second RRT (HAZMAT) from Fayetteville.

# Event Summary (continued)

- An evacuation was ordered by the Town of Apex for all persons with an area bordered by State Highway 55 on the west, U.S. Highway 1 on the south and U.S. Highway 64 on the north. The Incident Command Post was moved three times to avoid being located downwind of the facility.
- Near sunrise on October 6, 2006, DAQ personnel with the MAML were tasked by the Incident Commander to begin continuous air sampling. Water samples were taken outside the evacuation zone to monitor for any impact on the environment. No offsite contamination was seen in any of the air or water monitoring.
- Once the evacuation order was lifted, NCDENR in coordination with DHHS undertook an environmental sampling effort to further test for any offsite environmental impact. Indoor and outdoor swipe samples, as well as soil samples were taken at 37 locations around the facility. Samples were tested for metals, cyanide compounds and organic residue. The results of this joint sampling effort are posted on the NCDENR web page along with all situational reports for the incident.

# Event After Action Review and Lessons Learned

An after-action review of the emergency response to the Apex fire was conducted at the State Emergency Operation Center (State EOC) on October 19, 2006 for State agencies. Prior to that review, Wake County hosted a review of the local emergency response.

- County EM Director – “1<sup>st</sup> Response where Communication was NOT an issue.
- Command Post had to be moved three times to stay upwind of the event.
- Unified Command – Locals were in charge and making good decisions.
- Paid for assets deployed to assist that were used.
- Inventory ?

# Governor's Hazardous Materials Task Force

- Formed on October 17, 2006 – less than two weeks after event.
- Three formal meetings and numerous conference calls
- Final Report issued on December 14, 2006.

- 16 Regulatory Recommendations

TSDs must have financial assurance; TSDs seek local govt. input to contingency plans; Offsite inventory access; notification to nearby property owners for new TSD applications; Land use changes and pop density criteria for more frequent inspections; 24-7 site security; Permit cycle changed to 5 years; Evaluate siting, design and operations; Regulate 10-day transfer sites; Local first responders get DWM inspection reports; Clarify NC fire code – hazardous waste, hazardous materials, hazardous chemicals; Reimbursement for SMAT and Public Health; Wind monitors; Confidentiality of municipal 911 systems; Confidentiality of reverse 911 data; Protect local ordinance authority.

- 6 Funding Recommendations.

# **Substantive Legislation Passed and Signed into Law**

- All 16 Regulatory Recommendations included.
- Six funding recommendations placed in Budget Bill. State Budget has not yet passed.

# Finding Out More

- Task Force Report on NCDENR Website: [www.enr.state.nc.us](http://www.enr.state.nc.us)
- All Situation Reports also posted there.