

**From:** Burk, Edward <[eburk@cleanearthinc.com](mailto:eburk@cleanearthinc.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 28, 2024 7:44 AM  
**To:** WORKMAN, JEFF <[JWORKMAN@idem.IN.gov](mailto:JWORKMAN@idem.IN.gov)>  
**Cc:** Bavetz, Steve <[sbavetz@cleanearthinc.com](mailto:sbavetz@cleanearthinc.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: :EXTERNAL: Incident

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Good morning.

Attached is the memorandum or description of the lithium battery flare up. A copy of this incident report will be included in the facility record.

Please let me know if there area any questions. Thank you

Edward Burk  
Manager Permitting Compliance

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**icare**  
think safety. act safely

**From:** WORKMAN, JEFF <[JWORKMAN@idem.IN.gov](mailto:JWORKMAN@idem.IN.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 21, 2024 2:31 PM  
**To:** Burk, Edward <[eburk@cleanearthinc.com](mailto:eburk@cleanearthinc.com)>  
**Subject:** :EXTERNAL: Incident

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Hi Ed,

I think it would be appropriate for Clean Earth to a general notification of the incident summarizing the event for the pubic record, pointing out the fire alarms was pulled, but evacuation was not necessary. Nobody was hurt and no unacceptable releases to environment occurred. Also, important would be identify any updated policies based on lessons learned.

Thanks,

Jeff

June 28, 2024

Memorandum

RE: Incident Investigation Follow-up  
Clean Earth Environmental Solutions, Inc.  
Indianapolis, Indiana

On June 21, 2024, approximately 9:45 am, at the Clean Earth Environmental Solutions, Inc. (Clean Earth) facility located at 2770 Fortune Circle Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46241 a small fire occurred on a sorting table located inside facility depack area. The fire was contained to the top of processing table. The small fire was within the confines of the facility and extinguished on its own within two minutes. The following is a brief report outlining the incident.

**Facility Operator's Name:** Clean Earth Environmental Solutions, Inc.

**Facility Contact:** Steve Bavetz

**Telephone:** 317-935-7812.

**Facility Name:** Clean Earth Environmental Solutions, Inc.

**Facility Address:** 2770 Fortune Circle Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46241

**EPA ID Number:** INR 000110197.

**Date and Time of Incident:** June 21, 2024; approximately 9:45 am.

**Estimated Incident Timeline:**

Date - Friday June 21, 2024

6:00 am to 9:45 am - Material was being segregated and consolidated in depack area of facility.

9:45 am - Material was observed to begin smoking.  
Area was evacuated. Management notified as well as Fire Department.

9:47 am – any small fire and smoke extinguished.

10:10 am - Fire Department on-site

10:20 am - Fire Department depart site.

Residual battery and android phone materials segregated and secured.

10:30 am - Area cleared. Team Members return to regular work activities.

**Type of Incident (i.e., fire, release):** Fire.

**Name and Quantity of Material(s) Involved:** Lithium battery being removed/segregated from an android cell phone.

**Extent of injuries, if any:** No physical injury(s) occurred. No lost work time.

**Quantity and disposition of recovered materials:** The small amount of material remaining consisted of the residual lithium battery which was segregated, the contacts taped, and properly packaged for off-site disposal. The remaining plastic parts of the android phone were consolidated with other phone or electronic waste for off-site shipment and recycling.

**Actual/potential hazards to human health or the environment:** As a result of the ignition of lithium battery being removed from the android phone there was a short-term release of smoke and fumes. This created a potential inhalation and adsorption hazard for any individual in contact with the smoke. The fire and subsequent smoke generation was very short lived and contained to the area around the top of or immediate area of the segregation table and quickly dissipated. All on-site Clean Earth Team Members that may have been in the area responding to the incident are trained in the use of and are provided personnel protective equipment, however the Team Members maintained a safe distance, and relinquishing the situation to the Fire Department upon their arrival, however the fire/flames/smoke had extinguished prior to the Fire Departments' arrival.

**Immediate response Action Taken:**

A Team member was removing a lithium battery from an android cell phone. The Team member was segregating and preparing the phone parts (battery, plastic, etc.) for consolidation and ultimate recycling or reuse. This is when the battery began to smoke and briefly caught fire. The Supervisor and the Facility Manager were notified. Work area(s) were evacuated according to protocol for fires.

The fire and smoke were extinguished when the Fire Department arrived on-site. At that time the appropriate information was provided to the Fire Department and the Clean Earth Team Members had gathered to the designated safe zone. The Fire Department investigated the segregation table and surrounding area. In a very short-time the Fire Department declared the situation contained and departed the facility. Refer to attached photograph of the affected android phone.

As a result of this incident the facility management have determined that batteries will no longer be removed on-site from any electronic devices. The packages will be sent out directly as electronic devices containing lithium battery.



Although lithium battery contacts must be taped for packaging and transport, any loose batteries being managed on-site will be taped accordingly. Any questions will be diverted to management.

The investigation will continue to try and identify the exact source or cause. Any additional data received will be evaluated in line with the observations and information collected to date. As additional information is collected it will be incorporated into the incident summary. As appropriate any needed supplemental training will be provided to the facility Team Members.

Clean Earth Environmental Services, Inc.  
2770 Fortune Circle Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46241

Photographs – June 21, 2024



Photograph #1 – (6/21/2024), Affected android cell phone.