

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Romic Environmental Technologies Corporation - Southwest

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • SAN FRANCISCO, CA • JUNE 2004

Emergency Response and Preparedness

The Romic facility is located on the Gila River Indian Reservation at 6760 West Allison Road, in the Lone Butte Industrial Park just southwest of Chandler, AZ.



Romic currently operates as a hazardous waste storage and treatment facility that is primarily engaged in recycling of solvents. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) seeks comments from the public on Romic's final permit application to continue to store and treat hazardous waste and to expand its operations.

EPA Requirements for Emergency Response

EPA requires Romic to be prepared to respond to emergencies at their facility. An emergency is defined as a fire, explosion, earthquake, or any hazardous waste spill that may threaten human health or the environment.

Romic must describe in a written plan how they will respond to emergencies at their facility. This is called their **Contingency Plan**. Romic's Contingency Plan was submitted as part of their permit application in December 2002. Romic is required to keep this plan current. Romic's Contingency Plan is available for review at the GRIC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in Sacaton, AZ and EPA's RCRA Records Center in San Francisco, CA.

Requirements for Notifying and Reporting Emergencies



If there is an emergency at Romic that may threaten the nearby community, Romic must immediately advise local public safety agencies. Romic must

also immediately notify the National Response Center.

Romic must also submit a written report to US EPA and GRIC DEQ of emergencies that occur at their facility within 15 days of the emergency.

What is in Romic's Contingency Plan?

Designation of an *Emergency Coordinator*. This is a Romic employee who is responsible for directing the response if there is an emergency at Romic.

Description of how Romic will respond to and control an on-site fire, explosion, or hazardous waste spill.

Description of how Romic will clean up spills, equipment, and surrounding soil if contaminated by a fire, explosion, or hazardous waste spill.

Identification of local public safety agencies who will assist Romic if necessary during an emergency. These include:

- Gila River Fire Department
- Gila River Indian Community Emergency Coordinator
- Lone Butte Industrial Park Security
- Gila River Indian Community Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Chandler Regional Hospital



CONTACT EPA:

If you have questions about **Romic** please contact:

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Community Involvement Coordinator
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Emergency Response and Preparedness at Romic

Recent Emergency Incidents at Romic Involving the Contingency Plan

2/11/2003	
INCIDENT	Acid spill and acid vapor release, no injuries
CAUSE OF INCIDENT	Drum with approximately sixty-five gallons of mixed acid solution failed during unloading from truck when it first arrived at Romic.
ROMIC'S RESPONSE	Spill contained. Employees donned personal protective equipment. Entire area was cleaned with absorbent and high pressure water. No evacuation necessary.
INCIDENT REPORTED TO:	GRIC DEQ, GRIC Fire Department, GRIC OSHA, Lone Butte Industrial Park Security, GRIC Police Department
1/30/2004	
INCIDENT	Acid vapor air release, no injuries
CAUSE OF INCIDENT	Employees added soda ash to a drum with half a gallon of acid to neutralize it which caused a vapor cloud.
ROMIC'S RESPONSE	Employees donned respirators, placed a lid on the drum, and sprayed the acid cloud with water. Facility alarm was sounded and employees evacuated upwind of the vapor cloud.
INCIDENT REPORTED TO:	GRIC DEQ, GRIC Fire Department, U.S. EPA
6/14/2004	
INCIDENT	Fire in a roll-off bin, no injuries
CAUSE OF INCIDENT	Employee put contaminated absorbent into the wrong bin. The absorbent was incompatible with other waste already in the bin and started a fire.
ROMIC'S RESPONSE	Notified emergency coordinator and GRIC Fire Department, activated the contingency plan, and evacuated the facility. The GRIC Fire Department put out the fire.
INCIDENT REPORTED TO:	GRIC DEQ, GRIC Fire Department, U.S. EPA

Romic's Emergency Prevention Equipment

- ☐ Facility security fencing and locked gates with warning signs
- ☐ Adequate aisle space in hazardous waste storage areas to allow access
- ☐ Fire Alarms, fire extinguishers, and sprinklers throughout the facility with backup power system
- ☐ Portable foam suppression fire equipment
- ☐ Eye washes, emergency showers, and First Aid kits throughout the facility
- ☐ Daily/weekly inspections of all waste storage areas, and annual integrity testing of storage tanks



Romic's Equipment to Prevent Air Emissions and Spills

- ☐ Secondary containment (concrete basins with berms and sumps) beneath all drums and tanks
- ☐ Overflow protection and emergency shut down equipment on storage tanks
- ☐ Covered hazardous waste drums and tanks
- ☐ Air emission control system for all storage and process units

Romic's Spill Cleanup Equipment

- ☐ Personal protective equipment (suits, gloves, air respirators, face shields, etc.)
- ☐ Absorbents, brooms, shovels, etc.
- ☐ Portable pumps and hoses
- ☐ Extra drums and containers
- ☐ Emergency acid and base spill kits that include neutralizing agents

Romic's Emergency Response and Communications Equipment

- ☐ Hand held two way radios
- ☐ Telephones including cell phones
- ☐ Flashlights



Romic's Coordination with Local Responders

Romic is a member of the Local Emergency Planning Committee which is a part of the Gila River Indian Community Tribal Chemical Emergency Response Commission.