

# WIPP Recovery Update



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# Today's Topics

- Event summary
- Safety
- The recovery process
- Current status of the WIPP recovery effort
- Looking ahead
- Questions & answers



# Two events at WIPP

- **February 5, 2014**  
Underground fire in a  
salt hauler vehicle
- **February 14, 2014**  
Radiological release  
occurred at WIPP



# Safety

- No risk to the public
- Release was below EPA reporting requirements
- WIPP ventilation system worked as designed
- Thousands of air and environmental surveys taken since February 15 and majority are non detectible for contamination

# The Recovery Process

Approved  
Recovery Plan  
expected by  
June 30

- **Phase 1** – Identifying the source of the contamination
- **Phase 2** – Decontaminating the mine, replacing equipment/improving infrastructure and upgrading procedures/processes to ensure safe, compliant operations

# Underground Re-entry

Teams have  
completed almost  
a dozen entries

All have been  
planned  
extensively and  
completed safely



# Source

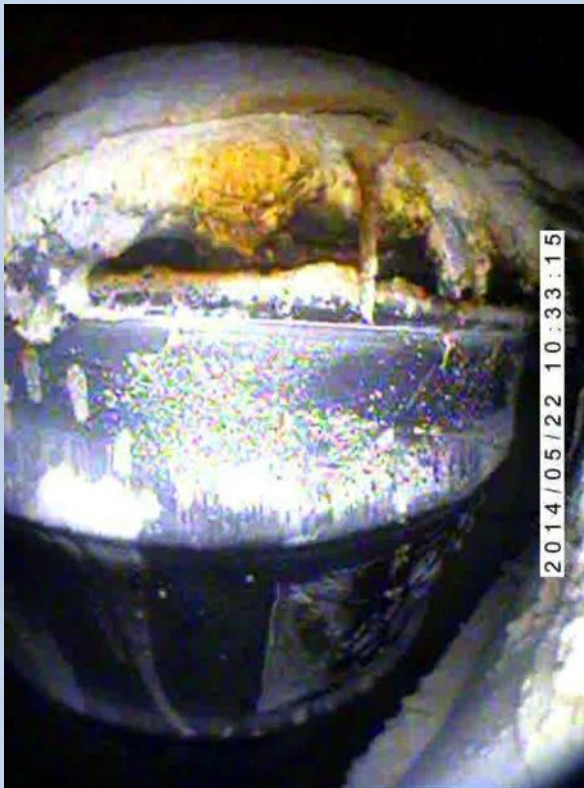
Event scene  
was Panel 7,  
Room 7

The cause is  
still being  
investigated



# What we know

- The mine is stable
- Magnesium oxide sacks were disturbed by event
- Heat damage is evident
- At least one container is no longer intact



# What the Accident Investigation Board is investigating

- What caused the damage to the waste container?
- Was it the original source of the entire event?
- Are there other damaged containers?



# Current activities

Waste stream  
suspected of  
causing heat-  
generating reaction

No definitive cause  
has been  
determined

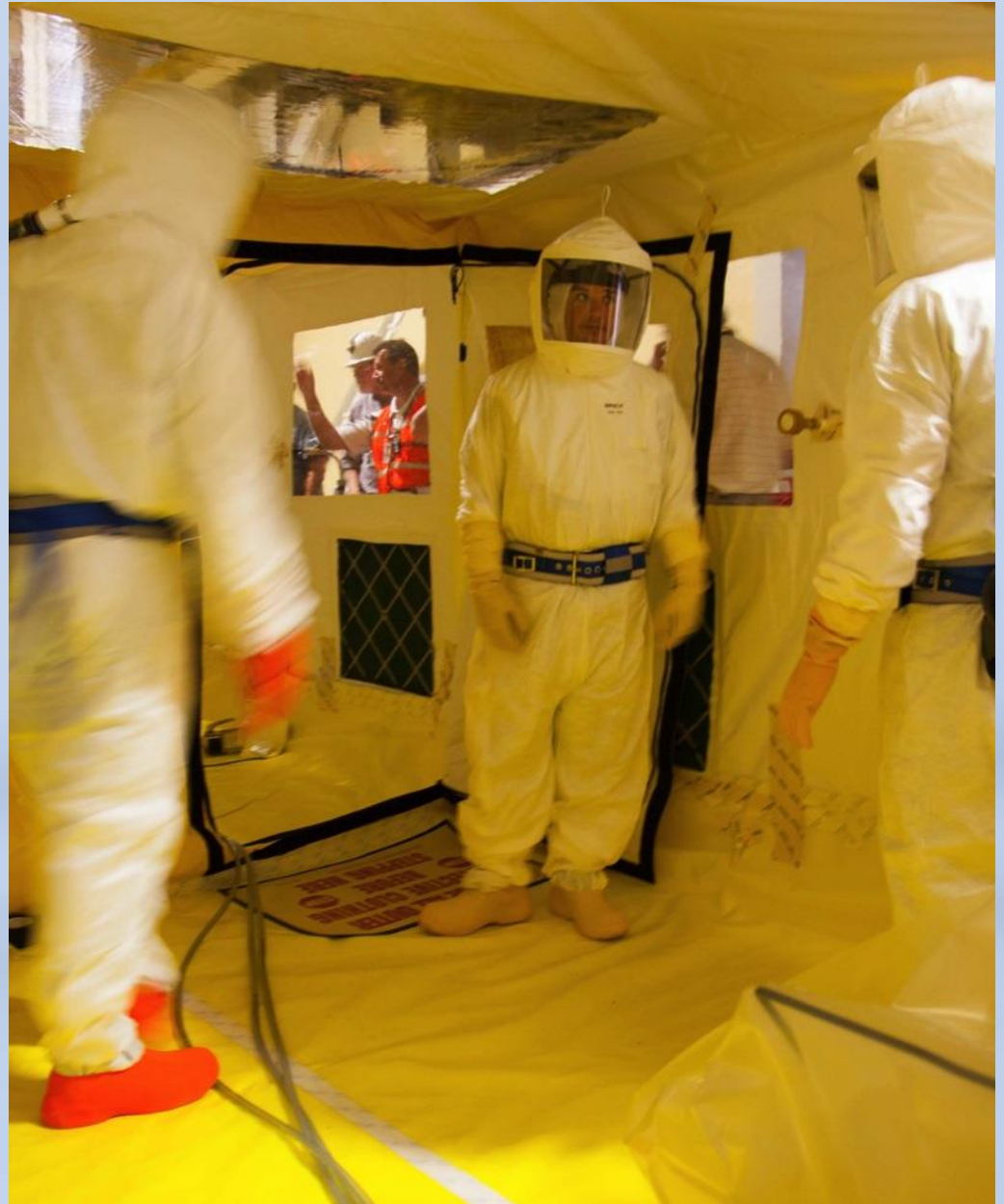
- Developing ways to examine Room 7 from Row 1- 24, top to bottom
- Analyzing samples



# Filter change out

Replacing the filters  
affected by smoke  
and contamination

Underground  
entries on hold  
until complete



# Looking ahead

- All issues raised by the Accident Investigation Board are being addressed.
- We will resume operations in a safe, compliant manner
- WIPP's national cleanup mission will continue following immediate program and infrastructure improvements.



# Questions & Answers