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Cement Dust Release

Cement dust might not sound like an extremely hazardous material but when a baghouse filter failed at a bulk cement storage and transfer terminal it was a very big deal. Dust spewed over a five acre parking lot covering school buses waiting to take Boston children home from school. It also covered dozens of the bus drivers, many of whom were rushed to neighborhood hospitals, and a couple of hundred nearby new cars.

Goldman Environmental Consultants (GEC) was on the scene within minutes of the release and directed a 48-hour non-stop remediation effort involving hundreds of emergency response personnel and numerous pieces of equipment. GEC coordinated emergency efforts working hand-in-glove with the City of Boston's Fire, Police, Inspections, School and Health Departments as well as the Massachusetts State Police and Department of Environmental

Protection. Quickly earning the confidence of these organizations GEC was given great latitude and flexibility to make time-critical decisions that lead to a quick resolution to the problem.

With the Emergency Response work completed, GEC was then asked to assist in the development and permitting of an upgraded cement conveyance system with multiple automatic fail-safe systems built in to assure that a repeat release would not occur. GEC has been involved in the ongoing permitting and regulatory negotiation effort.

The project highlights the need to be vigilant with respect to your operations and maintenance and when accidents occur, and they will occur at even the most prepared facilities, it is important to act in a timely and efficient manner.