



Highway Patrol Crime Lab Constructed in L.E. Cox Building on Modern Tractor Facility Site

Where tractor parts were once strewn about the property site, a whole new venture has come to the former Modern Tractor facility site – crime. The new Highway Patrol Crime Lab in Springfield celebrated its grand opening December 15, 2008, and its impact has already been felt statewide in faster lab results for law enforcement agencies across Missouri. Construction of the lab was critical in efforts to reduce the backlogged cases at the central crime lab in Jefferson City. The central crime lab was assisted by six field labs around the state, but the field labs could only perform a limited range of tests. Springfield’s lab is full-service, relieving some of the burden on the Jefferson City lab and allowing forensic evidence to be processed quicker, cutting down on crime victims’ waits for justice.

The 30,000 square foot lab cost \$6.2 million to build, and \$1.6 million in legislation signed by former Governor Blunt allowed for the purchase of the property. It was funded through an innovative partnership of federal, state, city, and county governments as well as a group of private banks, and will serve Green County and several other areas in southwest Missouri with 21 employees processing criminal cases. The lab includes a firearms lab, trace evidence lab, extensive DNA work and exam rooms, drug chemistry lab, toxicology lab, a large open work area, and a number of supporting features. New features include a separate vehicle bay to examine vehicles from crime scenes and a large industrial freezer and cooler for evidence storage.



Before construction, a Phase I assessment and a UST investigation was performed and funded by the City of Springfield’s 2004 Petroleum Assessment Grant. In the Phase I, four RECs were identified: an underground storage tank on the north parcel of the property, an underground storage tank on the adjacent property west of the parcel, the adjacent property to the west being used as a foundry and vulcanizer, and ACMs present throughout the building. The Phase I recommended a UST investigation and an asbestos survey with collection. The UST investigation found three total, and all three were closed and removed from the property. Subsequent to the EPA assessments, the former Modern Tractor site was enrolled in the Brownfield Voluntary Cleanup Program in 2006.

The building makes extensive use of advanced energy saving chemical fume hoods. Many re-circulating hoods and work stations are used instead of externally ducted hoods where appropriate. These hoods scrub the air through advanced filters such as HEPA/charcoal or particulate/charcoal filters to minimize the volume of conditioned air being exhausted from the building, thus saving energy.



The Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Lab in Springfield, MO

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