



Summary of Assessment Actions for Residents on the South Side of E. 52nd Street

Overview

This information is provided to residents on the south side of E. 52nd Street in Maywood, following the June 14, 2016 fire at 3570 Fruitland Ave. Early in the morning on June 14, 2016, a fire started at 3570 Fruitland Avenue. This fire forced the evacuation of all residents on E. 52nd St. (north and south sides) and residents along the western side of Everett St. between Fruitland Ave. and E. 52nd St.

Fire fighters were able to control the fire on June 15, 2016. The fire produced fumes, smoke, and particulates (very tiny pieces of material) that were released into the air and settled on the ground on nearby properties as fire ash.

Why was I evacuated from my home?

All residents on the south side of E. 52nd St. were evacuated by the responding agencies to ensure their safety during firefighting operations. The mandatory evacuation remained in effect after the fire was extinguished as a precautionary measure until responding agencies could verify no hazard was present.

Is my home safe?

The fire ash contained potentially hazardous levels of metals from the facility. After the fire was extinguished, personnel from the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted visual assessments to determine if residential properties were impacted by ash or debris from the fire. No visible ash or debris was seen on the south side of E. 52nd St., so it was determined at that time it was safe to return home. Additional soil samples were taken along the north and south side of E. 52nd St. to affirm the visual assessment. Testing results confirmed the initial assessment was correct and there was no evidence of contamination from the magnesium fire on the south side of East 52nd Street. Results from air sampling showed there was an increase in the air concentrations of chromium and magnesium immediately after the fire, but the levels of both of these metals decreased during the first week after the fire. All homes are safe for residents on E. 52nd Street.



Will my home be tested?

There was no visible ash seen on the south side of E. 52nd Street. The soil and air testing around your street show that your home was not impacted by the fire and does not require indoor testing.

What happens now?

All homes are safe for residents on E. 52nd Street. Some individuals may have experienced symptoms such as irritation to the eyes, nose, throat, and lungs from the odor or skin irritation from the ash. These symptoms may temporarily be irritating or annoying to some people, but there should be no permanent health impacts.

The fire debris from the facility has been covered with sealant and filter fabric and there is a reduction of metals in ambient air. As the cleanup continues for the burned facility, every effort will be made to ensure that dust and ash do not re-enter your neighborhood. You may notice smells of burned material and other fire debris as cleanup work continues. For questions about the cleanup of the facility, you can speak with EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator, Carlin Hafiz, at 213.244.1814 or hafiz.carlin@epa.gov. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is also available and can be reached at 213.738.3220.