

Fact Sheet #1



Region 10

John Day Vapor Response

John Day, Oregon

Friday, May 22, 2015

An EPA Emergency Response Team arrived in John Day on Thursday, May 21 to help the City of John Day and the state of Oregon investigate the unusual odors in and around homes and commercial buildings along South Canyon Boulevard.

Over the next several days we will be going door to door in this five to ten block area to test indoor air and find out where the fumes are concentrated, how much there is, and what kind of chemicals are present. EPA's work builds on some limited sampling conducted by the City of John Day and the USDA earlier this month.

The first priority is to identify all the locations that are affected make sure that people living or working in affected buildings minimize their exposure.

Report Odors or Fumes

If you smell an unusual odor in your house please call City of John Day Dispatch at 541-575-0030. The information will be shared with EPA. You may also want to contact your insurance provider to discuss any concerns arising from household fumes.

Be Safe

Ventilation is important, open vents to crawlspaces or basements. If you smell fumes inside, then open your windows

Health Concerns

If you smell fumes or chemical odors, especially if you experience any symptoms such as headache, burning eyes, shortness of breath, call your doctor.

In addition, you can call the Grant County Health Department at 541-575-0429

Frequently Asked Questions:

Is it okay to be in the affected neighborhood?

Make sure that indoor spaces are well ventilated and free of chemical odors.

Do these fumes cause a risk of fire or explosion?

In the testing completed so far, none of the fumes have been flammable or explosive.

How do I ventilate my home?

Keep windows open, open or unblock crawl space vents, use fans that vent to the outside.

What types of contaminants have been found?

We will have more information on this soon. A preliminary sampling report is available on the City of John Day website: <http://www.cityofjohnday.com/>

Where are the vapors coming from?

We do not currently know the source of the fumes. Indoor air testing will help us identify the source and determine the next steps needed to address the source.

Who is involved with the response?

EPA On-Scene Coordinators and support contractors are testing indoor air in the affected neighborhood. EPA is also coordinating with the City of John Day and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

For more information:

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On the web: www.epaosc.net/johnday