



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE BRANCH  
2525 N. SHADELAND AVENUE, SUITE 100  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46219

October 23, 2015

Dear Resident:

On Oct. 20, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the Marion County Public Health Department responded to a barn fire on a vacant farm on Seerley Road, Indianapolis, Indiana where five 35 gallon drums of metal potassium were located in an area near the barn.

The drums show signs of metal flaking, rust, rupture and bulging. When metal potassium comes in contact with water, a violent reaction producing hydrogen gas is possible. The gas can catch fire.

EPA monitored the air in a residential neighborhood downwind of the fire for soot and chemicals including volatile organic compounds, hydrogen sulfide and hydrogen cyanide. EPA monitors did not detect chemicals and levels of soot did not exceed National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

EPA also inspected Little Seerley Creek and did not see any sign that water used to fight the fire had entered the creek.

EPA will continue to monitor the air and water. In addition, EPA has secured the site to prevent unauthorized access and established a technical workgroup to determine the best way to stabilize, safely remove and dispose of the containers.

The Marion County Public Health Department is working closely with the EPA and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to monitor any potential public health threat and to share information with nearby residents about this coordinated response effort.

If you have any questions, please call us at the numbers below.

Sincerely,

Jason Sewell  
Federal On-Scene Coordinator  
317-308-3397

Heriberto Leon  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
312-886-6163