



VILLAGE OF
CALUMET

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response.epa.gov/5thstreetcalumet

For more information about
asbestos and its health risks, visit

www.atsdr.cdc.gov/asbestos

EPA to Remove Asbestos- Contaminated Debris

Fifth Street Calumet Fire Site

Calumet, Michigan

September 2021

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is working with the Village of Calumet, Calumet Township, Houghton County, and the Michigan Department Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, or EGLE, to begin cleanup of asbestos-contaminated debris near the intersection of Fifth and Portland streets.

On May 21, a fire destroyed three buildings, including several apartments and commercial businesses. An assessment of the rubble resulting from the fire found that the debris is contaminated with asbestos.

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that was often used in construction in the mid-20th century. Breathing high levels of asbestos fibers for a long period of time can cause scar-like tissue in the lungs and the lining surrounding the lungs.

To clean up the asbestos-contaminated debris, EPA plans to:

Work with local government to close areas of Portland Street, Fourth Street, and Agassiz Park to enable support facilities and truck traffic

Remove and dispose of the asbestos-contaminated fire debris

Conduct air monitoring while removing the debris

Backfill the open basements at the end of the project

The cleanup will take about 60 days and will require the temporary closure of portions of Portland Street, Fourth Street, and part of the Agassiz Park parking lot (see map below).

