



VILLAGE OF CALUMET

For more information, contact:

Brian Kelly
U.S. EPA On-Site Coordinator
kelly.brian@epa.gov
(734) 740-9019

Amy Keranen
EGLE
keranena@michigan.gov
(906) 337-0389

Tom Tikkanen
Houghton County
tom.tikkanen@houghtoncounty.net
(906) 369-0022

Elise Matz
Calumet Village
redjacketmatz@gmail.com
(517) 303-2469

Tim Gasperich
Calumet Township Supervisor
caltwpsupervisor@gmail.com
(906) 337-2410

Websites
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).

