

# Re-Occupation Plan Summary

## **PURPOSE:**

Clearly explain the process that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and Wayne County Health Department (WCHD) are using to ensure it is safe for residents in areas of Flat Rock, MI to return to their homes after a gasoline release to the City's sanitary sewer system.

## **PLAN SUMMARY**

Following a gasoline release in Flat Rock, Michigan, reported on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, hazardous and flammable chemicals including benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene were detected in the City's sanitary sewer system. Vapors from the gasoline release traveled from the sewer main pipes into individual property sewer pipes and into some homes. Because the risks had not yet been defined by initial air monitoring, local officials recommended that residents in these homes evacuate due to the potential health concern of breathing these vapors and the risk of explosion.

Since the release, workers have stopped the gasoline from entering the sewer. Additionally, work crews have removed gasoline that entered the sewer and have continued to monitor the presence of vapors. Working with the City, details about sewer lines were obtained. This allowed response officials to further define the area that was potentially impacted by vapors and possibly at risk.

Officials from Michigan Department of Human Health Services (MDHHS) and Wayne County Health Department (WCHD) have requested additional air monitoring data from the sanitary sewer system and homes. MDHHS and WCHD will use this information to determine whether it is safe for Flat Rock residents to return to their homes.

Representatives from the city, county, state, and federal governments responding to the incident have approved the following steps to generate the information needed for the health agencies to clear residents to return home:

### *1. Sanitary Sewer Screening within the Impacted Areas:*

- EPA and the Michigan 51<sup>st</sup> Civil Support Team are providing staff and analytical instruments, including the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) mobile lab and portable Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer (GC/MS), to detect gasoline vapors from the release that may still exist in the sanitary sewers.
- This technology can measure levels below public health protective indoor air screening levels.
- The instruments will determine whether any vapors remain in the sewer system related to the release.
- Screening will occur throughout the impacted areas.

### *2. Home Indoor Air Screening/Sampling within the Impacted Areas:*

- Screening locations are being prioritized based on who was evacuated and where the highest levels of gasoline vapors were detected during the initial response and continuous sanitary sewer screening.

- EPA is collecting air data to screen the indoor air of homes where gasoline vapors were previously detected.
  - The TAGA mobile lab can detect vapors at concentrations below any level of concern.
  - At homes where vapors were detected at high concentrations and where evacuation was strongly recommended, indoor air samples will be taken over a 24-hour period. These samples will then be analyzed at an off-site laboratory to ensure the vapors are no longer in the home. This precautionary measure will be in addition to TAGA screening at these homes.
3. *Data Management and Quality Assurance*
- All data will meet the pre-defined quality assurance requirements and will be reviewed to determine clearance of the property or if additional work is required.
4. *Data Analysis and Clearance Decision*
- Once the data from the sanitary sewers collected, a Unified Command joint technical team will review and determine if sewer flushing was effective enough to begin clearance process on homes. The technical team will be comprised of MDHHS, EPA, and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) .
  - Once the data is collected from the sanitary sewers and indoor air at the homes, health officials will review the information. Health officials will use the information to determine if the home can be cleared for re-occupancy or if additional data, response, or information is needed.
5. *Additional Screening/Sampling*
- A plan has been developed in the event that more information is needed to make the clearance for re-occupancy decisions or additional screening equipment is required.

Ford has hired a contractor and is providing resources as directed by the response agencies (EPA and EGLE) to expedite completion of the cleaning and clearing of residences through screening. Assets provided by Ford will work under the direction of the response agencies who will oversee these activities.