

Federal, State and Local Update on the Menominee, Michigan Warehouse Fire 10/12/22

Coordinating agencies:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Menominee County
Marinette County
Public Health, Delta & Menominee Counties
Marinette County Public Health
City of Menominee
City of Marinette

MENOMINEE, Mich. (October 12, 2022) – Menominee, Michigan warehouse fire update. City, state and federal officials today released an update on response activities.

- A Frequently Asked Questions document is available for residents (attached). If residents have questions, they can call 211 for more information.
- The fire is contained and under control. Portions of the warehouse facility continue to burn and fire suppression by local and regional fire departments are continuing.
- There have been no reports of fatalities or injuries related to the incident. Fire crews from several jurisdictions remain on-scene extinguishing the fire.
- In addition to water, yesterday the fire department starting using non-PFAS Class A foam at the site as a wetting agent. The two foams are: ANSUL SILV-EX PLUS Class A Fire Control Foam Concentrate and CHEMGUARD DIRECTATTACK Class A foam.
- Throughout the day on October 11, EPA air monitoring resulted in detection of higher levels of particulates in the surrounding community than on previous days since the fire started. EPA scientists and state and local public health officials are reviewing this data. EPA will continue to conduct air monitoring and sampling until the fire is extinguished. It's anticipated there will be a need for ongoing air monitoring as the cleanup and debris removal from the site ensues over the coming weeks.
- Public health agencies advise residents continue to avoid smokey areas.
- Diking and levees continue being added and improved to capture runoff water. A collection pond has been constructed for temporary storage of runoff water.
- EPA is coordinating with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on surface water sampling at 21 locations and testing related to potential run-off from the incident site to the Menominee water treatment plant (an earlier version said wastewater treatment plant) and adjacent Menominee River. EPA, state agencies and local water utilities are coordinating to implement sampling to confirm that there are no impacts to drinking water supplies and will share results as they become available.

- State and federal environmental agencies are also in communication with the industrial tenants of the warehouse to determine what chemicals were present in the warehouse at the time of the fire.

The incident is being handled under a unified command structure led by EPA. Agencies participating in the unified command are EGLE, Wisconsin DNR, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), Menominee County, Marinette County, Public Health, Delta & Menominee Counties, Marinette County Public Health, the cities of Menominee and Marinette, and the industrial tenants of the warehouse.

A joint information center has been established by the unified command to keep the public informed as response activities continue. The JIC will send updates to the press by 3 p.m. CT each day of the response.

For more information, please visit: <https://response.epa.gov/menomineewarehousefire>.