

Federal, State and Local Update on the Menominee, Michigan Warehouse Fire 10/15/22

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 15, 2022) – Menominee, Michigan warehouse fire update. City, state and federal officials today released an update on response activities. New updates below in **red**.

- A [Frequently Asked Questions document](#) is available for residents. 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.
- **EPA “by the numbers”:**
 - **EPA is collecting measurements for air pollutants at 30 locations surrounding the fire. The locations are near residences, schools, medical facilities, assisted care facilities, recreational and commercial properties.**
 - **EPA has collected 12 outdoor air samples for laboratory analysis for volatile organic compounds (VOC).**
 - **EPA has collected 62 surface water samples from Menominee River and Lake Michigan for laboratory analysis for VOCs, semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOC), metals, herbicides and PFAS.**
- **EPA is currently evaluating air monitoring data and coordinating results with local and state agencies. Air monitoring and sampling continues.**
- **The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and local public health agencies are reviewing EPA data for health risks, and will notify the public immediately if anything changes from current conditions.**
- 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.
- **Drinking water results update:**
 - **At this time, no new treated drinking water results have been received and reviewed since yesterday’s press release.**
 - Treated drinking water results received to date for the cities of Menominee and Marinette show PFAS levels below Michigan or Wisconsin health-based or regulatory standards for

measured PFAS compounds. Michigan and Wisconsin have evaluated the risks and determined that public risks to these PFAS currently are considered low. If future sampling shows results above state health based or regulatory standards, further action will be taken, and residents will be notified immediately.

- Test results for treated drinking water samples collected from Monday, October 11, and Tuesday, October 12, showed higher levels of some types of PFAS in the water than previously seen in past sampling by the cities, indicating an impact from the fire. Despite this impact, all levels of PFAS compounds detected in treated drinking water remain below any Michigan or Wisconsin maximum contaminant level (MCL) or health-based standard. At this time, area residents may continue drinking and using their water as usual. The PFAS compounds found in the Menominee treated drinking water are: 6:2-FTS, PFHxA, PFPeS, and PFBA; and in Marinette treated drinking water are: PFHxA, PFHpA, and PFBS. Four years of monitoring data of the Menominee Public Water Supply found no detections of 6:2-FTS, PFHxA, or PFPeA. In Marinette, water levels of PFHxA have shown an increase while PFHpA and PFBS have been detected for the first time.
- *Background:*
 - PFAS are a large group of human-made chemicals that do not occur naturally in the environment. PFAS chemicals were released during the on-going Menominee warehouse fire and entered the Menominee River. As the investigation continues, residents should be aware results could change. State and federal agencies and water utilities will continue to sample drinking water plant intakes and treated drinking water leaving the plants. The responding agencies will collect drinking water samples to analyze for industrial chemicals. Results will be posted following data review for quality assurance.
 - If you are concerned about PFAS in your drinking water, there are several steps you can take to find out if PFAS is in your drinking water and if it is, reduce your exposure.
 - If residents have concerns or questions, please call 211. If you live in Wisconsin, the direct number is: 877-947-2211. If you live in Michigan, the direct number is: (800) 338-1119.

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>.

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