

Federal, State and Local Update on the Menominee, Michigan Warehouse Fire 10/18/22

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 18, 2022) – Menominee, Michigan warehouse fire update. City, state, and federal officials today released an update on response activities. New updates below in **red**.

- **As the unified emergency response to the Menominee Warehouse Fire continues into a longer-term recovery phase, all involved agencies and industry parties are planning a press conference in Menominee on Thursday, Oct. 20, 2022.**
- **We will provide presentations about firefighting efforts, containment and management of fire runoff water, sampling of surface water and drinking water, community air monitoring and sampling, and recovery actions related to the rehabilitation of the fire scene.**
- **Unified command will explain how environmental, public health, fire departments and emergency management agencies from two states, two counties, and two cities have worked together at this response.**
- Site conditions are stable and steadily improving. Recovery actions are increasing daily.
- There have been no reports of fatalities or injuries related to the incident.
- Fire suppression operations continue to identify and extinguish remaining smoldering hot spots in burned out areas of the warehouse. These actions are being led by an MDNR wildland fire Incident Management Team.
- Demolition and debris removal are well underway. KKIL and Resolute Forest Products are coordinating these efforts.
- The Unified Command agencies have determined that EPA's air monitoring and air sampling can be reduced. This is based upon EPA's ongoing evaluation of air monitoring and air sampling data the agency has continuously collected since the beginning of the incident response. EPA will scale down the number of air monitoring stations in the community surrounding the fire site. However, air monitoring and sampling will continue for particulate and other volatile organic compounds and EPA will continue its evaluation of results. This is good news which indicates that the potential threat of air impact from the scene continues to diminish. EPA will continue to evaluate air monitoring and sampling data and coordinate results with state and local agencies.

- Several million gallons of fire suppression water were collected to prevent runoff of fire related contaminants to the Menominee River. Construction of a water treatment system to treat this water has begun. Tyco Fire and its contractors Arcadis and Clean Harbors lead this effort which is being coordinated and overseen by EGLE and EPA.
- Drinking water results update:
 - 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.
- 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.

- State drinking water and public health officials from both Michigan and Wisconsin are continuing to monitor and discuss water ongoing water sampling results to be sure that public drinking water supplies remain protected.
- State and local public health agencies are reviewing EPA data for health risks and will notify the public immediately if risk increases from current conditions.
- 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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