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Cass Avenue – Clemens House Fire Site July 24, 2017

The Department of Health is providing this information:

- To inform residents of assistance that is available
- To help residents in the area understand possible risks from asbestos potentially released from the fire

Please find the following information in this packet of material:

- Frequently Asked Questions – Cass Avenue Asbestos
- Clemens Fire Plume Model
- Environmental Monitoring Results
- Resources with More Information on Asbestos

For all questions pertaining to Asbestos as it relates to the Clemons House Fire Site, please call:

Heather Gasama, Epidemiologist – City of St. Louis Department of Health at 314-657-1492

Frequently Asked Questions – Cass Avenue Asbestos

General Statement

The public is advised to avoid direct or indirect contact with the asbestos-containing material which may look like ash or paper which crumbles to dust upon contact.

If you live or work near the Clemens Mansion fire location, do not touch, do not try to pick up, move or vacuum any debris that may have come from the fire. The debris will look like ash or paper, and crumbles to dust easily. This dust may contain asbestos.

EPA Region 7 staff will oversee a licensed asbestos abatement contractor to remove waste materials potentially related to asbestos from the fire and adjacent properties and any related asbestos debris found in neighborhoods near the site.

I live near the Clemens Mansion and have debris on my property. Is my family safe?

The health risks of asbestos are almost entirely from inhaling asbestos fibers in the air. Any asbestos in debris that has fallen to the ground and is not airborne poses very little risk.

However, if you live or work near the Clemens Mansion, do not touch, do not try to pick up, move or vacuum any debris with the asbestos-containing material.

The debris will look like ash or paper, and crumbles to ash easily. This dust may contain asbestos.

Should I mow my lawn?

You are advised not to mow your lawn until health officials have conducted further testing in the area and developed a plan for removal of the debris.

What if I mowed my lawn already or used a leaf blower to clean debris off my lawn? Am I in danger?

The health risk from airborne asbestos fibers is dependent upon the quantity of asbestos, the duration of exposure, and the number of times you have been exposed. Those activities are unlikely to pose significant health risks because of the short duration of potential exposure to asbestos.

Should I water my lawn?

You may water your lawn. Watering your lawn may prevent the release of existing asbestos fibers from becoming airborne.

Should my children play outside in the yard?

There is little health risk to children who play outside in the yard so long as they do not disturb the debris. Infants and toddlers frequently put their hands in their mouths, so direct contact with the debris should be avoided. After playing outside, children should take off their shoes outside and wash their hands and face upon entering the house.

Should my pets play outside in the yard?

There is little risk for pets to play outside in the yard so long as they do not disturb the debris. Owners should wash pets' feet upon entering the house to ensure no fire debris is tracked into the home.

Should I dust and/or vacuum inside my house?

You should remove dust from the interior surfaces of your home with a damp cloth before vacuuming. It is advisable to dispose of the cloths you use in a sealed bag. After the interior surfaces have been cleaned, you can vacuum as usual, taking care to empty your vacuum outside.

Sweeping, vacuuming, or otherwise disturbing the debris might increase the release of asbestos fibers. Try not to track the dust and debris into your home – take shoes off when you come inside, wipe pet's feet when they come in from the outside, and wash children's hands often.

My car's air conditioning blew out smoke into my car when I started it after the fire. Did that put me in danger? Are there any steps I should take with my car?

Because the duration of potential exposure to any compounds in the smoke was extremely short, the health risks are very low. You should remove any dust from the interior surfaces of your car with a damp cloth. It is advisable to dispose of the used cloths in a sealed bag.

Should I clean up the debris on my own?

Although little health risk is posed if you were to pick up debris and place it in sealed refuse bags, you are advised to wait until health officials have conducted further testing in the area and have developed a plan for removal of the debris.

Are there any special dangers or concerns for infants, children, or the elderly?

There is no special danger for infants, children, and the elderly, except that young children may be likely to play with debris and break it apart, which makes it more likely to be exposed to airborne asbestos fibers. Small children should be monitored to ensure they do not disturb the debris.

If I shouldn't pick it up? Who should? When will the debris be picked up?

Health officials are continuing to conduct tests to assess the health risks in the neighborhood. They are also working on a plan for removal of the debris. We are hopeful that a removal plan will be announced soon.

Why is EPA involved in a structure fire case?

The City of St. Louis and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources asked for our assist to assess the neighborhood and human health situation due to limited resources.

What do I do to keep debris or asbestos fibers out of my home?

Try not to track the dust and debris into your home – take shoes off when you come inside, wipe pet's feet when they come in from outside, and wash children's hands often.

Why are you placing air monitors in the neighborhood? Should I be concerned?

The air monitors are designed to detect levels of asbestos in the air. While we don't believe there is a significant health risk, we wanted to monitor the air to alleviate any concerns regarding asbestos fibers in the air.

How far did debris from the fire spread throughout the neighborhood?

We are working with the City of St. Louis and Missouri DNR to plot where the debris might have spread based on the wind and weather conditions after the fire started. Once we have that plume mapped, we will continue our visual inspection of properties with debris. This will inform us on the cleanup zone.

How do I let someone know that there is debris near my home?

If you find any of this debris, please call (314) 657-1492 and provide the following information:

- Describe what the debris looks like
- The address where the debris is
- Describe where the debris is on your property
- Your name
- Your phone number

I haven't seen anyone taking action to clear the debris or even looking at our properties. When will we see action?

EPA and city officials have been setting up air monitors in the neighborhood surrounding the mansion to detect possible asbestos fibers in the air. Officials have also been doing a visual inspection to determine the extent of the impacted area.

What is my risk of getting lung cancer?

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as U.S. EPA Region 7 has indicated that the type of potential short-term exposure to asbestos related to the fire is unlikely to pose any significant health risks.

When asbestos containing materials break down, asbestos fibers can be released. The fibers are very small and thin and cannot be seen without a microscope. Breathing these fibers can cause asbestos-related disease. They can stick in the lungs, causing asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma when exposed to the fibers over a long period of time.

The risk of lung cancer and mesothelioma increases with the number of fibers inhaled. The risk of lung cancer from inhaling asbestos fibers is greater for people who smoke. People who get asbestosis have usually been exposed to high levels of asbestos for a long time, although that is not always the case.

I have had a sore throat and breathing problem since the fire, does that mean I have breathed asbestos fibers? Should I see a doctor?

If you feel like you should see a doctor, please do. The symptoms you have described most likely are caused by smoke inhalation. Exposure to asbestos usually do not cause immediate symptoms.

What happens if it rains? Or the weather changes?

The rain lowers the risk of debris becoming airborne. As the weather improves and conditions become drier, the risk of the asbestos debris becoming airborne may increase. Wetting down your debris will actually diminish the asbestos risks.

What if I have already cleaned up the debris?

We would advise that you wipe down anything you used to clean it up and put any residue that might have been present into a sealed plastic bag.

My bedding and clothes smell like smoke. Does that mean I have asbestos contamination in my house? How do I get rid of the smell/asbestos in cloth?

No, the smell of smoke is not an indication that there is asbestos contamination in your house. We advise that you wash any clothes that smell like smoke

Clemens Fire Plume Model

Clemens Fire Plume Model: This model predicts smoke movement during the fire from around 3:30 am to 5:30 am on 7/12/2017. Colors indicate the concentration of particulate deposition around the fire from the smoke movement.



Environmental Monitoring Results

Air Monitoring Results are on page 7. The results indicate that the concentration of fibers in the air (PCM Fiber Concentration f/cc) was much lower than the level established for clearance and occupancy of areas where asbestos has been removed. The method of analysis which detects actual asbestos fibers (TEM 7402 Concentration f/cc) shows that any possible amount of asbestos was less than the limit of the detection method. These results are described in the report below from July 20, 2017.

On July 24, 2017, the EPA reported the following:

- Northside Regeneration, LLC, owner of the property, submitted a work-plan to the EPA
- The work-plan is currently under review by the EPA

- EPA will tentatively approve Northside Regeneration’s work-plan; EPA indicated that Northside Regeneration will start clean-up of the neighborhood no later than Friday 7-28-17 (picking up visible debris)
- EPA reserves the right to amend the work plan at any time; Northside Regeneration is aware of this fact
- Final approval of the work-plan is pending and will be posted on the City’s website when it is approved

EPA Air Monitors Detect No Airborne Asbestos Around Clemens House Fire Site

Additional air monitoring stations will continue testing throughout the week.

Updated on 7.20.2017 7 p.m.

The EPA reported Thursday (July 20, 2017) that an air monitoring network set up around the site of the Clemens House fire did not detect the presence of any airborne asbestos in the first full day of the air monitoring program.

The agency added additional air monitoring stations on Thursday and will continue testing throughout the week.

The results of those tests will determine the next steps.

Until more information is available, the EPA advises residents to avoid touching, picking up or moving any debris that may have come from the fire.

Residents are further advised not to track the dust and debris into homes, take shoes off before entering homes and wash hands frequently.

If residents have further questions or concerns about the asbestos testing, please call the City's Department of Health at [314-657-1492](tel:314-657-1492).

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Updated on 7.19.2017 7 p.m.

EPA Continues Testing at Site of Clemens House Fire

The EPA expects testing results by Thursday evening

Following the discovery of asbestos in debris samples taken near the site of the Clemens House fire, the Environmental Protection Agency, in connection with the City of St. Louis, has set up an air monitoring network in the immediate area.

The air monitors will be in place for at least one week to determine whether airborne asbestos fibers are present in the air surrounding the site of the fire. Results from the air monitors are expected to be available by the end of the day Thursday.

The EPA will collect samples everyday for at least a week. The results of those tests will determine the next steps.

On Tuesday Northside Regeneration LLC., the owner of the Clemens House granted the EPA permission to conduct material testing at the site. The EPA believes Northside Regeneration is the responsible party for the spread of asbestos in the area.

The EPA is reaching out to Northside Regeneration about developing a work plan to clean the Clemens House site and the debris in the surrounding area.

Until more information is available, the EPA advises residents to avoid touching, picking up or moving any debris that may have come from the fire.

Residents are further advised not to track the dust and debris into homes, take shoes off before entering homes and wash hands frequently.

If residents have further questions or concerns about the asbestos testing, please call the City's Department of Health at [314-657-1492](tel:314-657-1492).

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Posted on 7.19.2017 11 a.m.

EPA Discovers Asbestos in Clemens House Fire

EPA, in coordination with the City's Health Department, will conduct a Health Impact Assessment in the surrounding neighborhood

The EPA on Tuesday discovered asbestos in samples of debris taken near the site of the Clemens House fire. As a next step, the EPA, in coordination with the City's Health Department, will conduct a **Health Impact Assessment** in the surrounding neighborhood.

The assessment will include air monitoring to determine if there is any airborne asbestos.

The EPA recommends that residents not disturb any debris from the fire until health officials conduct further tests and determine the best way to clean up the debris.

City officials are working with the EPA on an action plan and will keep the public informed as the Health Impact Assessment proceeds.

If residents have further questions or concerns about the asbestos testing, please call the City's Department of Health at [314-657-1492](tel:314-657-1492).



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Transmission Electron Microscopy Analysis Report

QuantEM Set ID: 282764 Date Received: 07/20/17 Received By: Karen Braley Analyst: Leigh Armstrong Date of Report: 7/20/2017 Methodology: NIOSH 7402, Issue 2, 1994	Client: Tetra Tech EM, Inc. 415 Oak Street Kansas City, MO 64106 Acct. No.: B229
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Project: Asbestos-Cass Avenue
Location: St. Louis, Missouri
Project No.: 0001.037

QuantEM Sample ID	Client Sample ID	Air Volume (liters)	PCM Fiber Concentration (f/cc)	Asbestos Fraction	TEM 7402 Concentration (f/cc)	Asbestos Type
001	ACA-201	2544.2	0.00193	0	< 0.00106	N/A
002	ACA-202	2348.6	0.00125	0	< 0.00115	N/A
003	ACA-203	2314.7	0.00148	0	< 0.00116	N/A
004	ACA-204	2304	0.00213	0	< 0.00117	N/A
005	ACA-205	2204.2	0.00134	0	< 0.00122	N/A
006	ACA-206FB	Blank	N/A	0	< N/A	N/A

Leigh Armstrong
 Authorized Signature: _____
 Leigh Armstrong, Analyst

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Unless otherwise noted, upon receipt the condition of the sample was acceptable for analysis.
 Results have been blank corrected per the NIOSH 7400 method, as applicable.

Resources with More Information on Asbestos

If you want more information regarding asbestos, please use the following resources:

https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/asbestos/additional_resources.html

[www.atsdr.cdc.gov]

<https://dnr.mo.gov/env/apcp/asbestos/>

[dnr.mo.gov]

<https://www.epa.gov/asbestos>

[www.epa.gov]