

ATSDR Record of Activity

Site: Magellan Tank Fire Activity: Emergency Response-routine involvement Date: 6/4/2008 Time:

UID: aov2 Date: 6/4/2008 Time:

Site Name: Magellan Tank Fire

City: County: State:

CERCLIS: Cost Recovery: Region: 7

Site Status (1): Non-NPL Site Status (2): Emergency Response

Activity

Emergency Response-routine involvement
Record of Activity Type= Health Condition-Related AROA

Requestor: EPA

Contacts and Affiliation: Dave Williams, EPA OSC

Address: 901 5th Street

City: Kansas City State: KS Zip: 66101

Request Text:

EPA requested ATSDR review air monitoring data generated during the Magellan Fire to determine if air contaminants generated during the fire posed a public health threat.

Narrative Summary:

EPA contacted ATSDR June 4, 2008 and asked ATSDR Region 7 staff to review air sample results collected during the Magellan Tank Fire, in Kansas City KS. EPA provided the following field screening data to ATSDR:

1. PM 10 particulate range: non-detect to 120 ug/m3
2. PM 2.5 particulate range: non-detect to 169.2 ug/m3
3. Total VOCs sampled using a PID - non-detect to 3.7 ppm
4. Benzene: < 10 ppm. Samples were collected using a Dragger tube with a detection limit of 10 ppm: All samples were below detection limits of the tube.

ATSDR reviewed the data. ATSDR does not have health comparison values for PM 10 and PM 2.5. Therefore, the EPA National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM 10 of 150 ug/m3 for a 24 hour average was used to evaluate these samples. The provisional EPA National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM 2.5 of 350 ug/m3 for a 24 hour average was used to evaluate PM 2.5 samples. ATSDR utilized the EPA Acute Exposure Guideline (AEG) 1 value of 9 ppm for an 8 hour period of time to evaluate the benzene data.

ATSDR concluded during the timeframe in which these samples were collected:

1. The PM 10 particulate sample results were lower than the EPA PM 10 Ambient Air Quality Standard, and does not pose a health threat.
2. The PM 2.5 particulate sample results were lower than the provisional EPA PM 2.5 Ambient Air Standard, and does not pose a health threat.
3. The benzene air samples were < 10 ppm (non-detect). In ATSDR's experience benzene burns quickly in fires and benzene levels greater than the AEG of 9 ppm are not commonly seen.
4. The VOC data could not be evaluated because there are no standards for total VOCs in air. ATSDR has health screening values for individual VOCs, and can evaluate the sample results if these type of samples are collected.
5. Based on the above data ATSDR has concluded that PM 10, PM 2.5 and benzene do not pose a public health threat to the general population at the levels reported in these samples. However breathing smoke from the fire may exacerbate pre-existing respirator conditions, such as asthma, bronchitis, COPD or with other breathing and respiratory problems. Therefore EPA should consider recommending sheltering-in-place for people with pre-existing respiratory conditions. Breathing smoke from the fire may cause coughing and shortness of breath, eyes burning and/or tearing, sore throat or itchy skin. All these symptoms should go away as soon as people move to an area where there is no smoke. Wash your hands and shower to remove airborne contaminants from your skin. No long term health problems would be expected from any of these short term exposures that may have occurred.

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6. ATSDR also concludes:

- a. Outdoor pets or farm animals should also be safe; give them a bath the way you normally do if you are concerned about animals.
- b. Garden vegetables and fruits are also safe to consume after thorough washing.

For more information contact:

Denise Jordan-Izaguirre, Senior Representative, ATSDR Region 7
(913) 551-1310 - office, (913) 669-3924 - cell

Sue Casteel, Regional Representative, ATSDR Region 7
(913) 551-1312 - office (913) 669-2589 - cell

Preparer: Sue Casteel, ATSDR
EPA Region VII
Robert J. Dole Federal Courthouse
500 State Avenue, Suite 182
Kansas City, KS 6610

Scott Wright, ATSDR
Senior Emergency Response Coordinator
Atlanta, Georgia 30341