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# Summary of Property Cleanup Actions

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## Overview

This information is provided to residents evacuated from the north side of E. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street in Maywood, following the June 14, 2016 fire at 3570 Fruitland Ave. The fire produced fumes, smoke, and particulates (very tiny pieces of material) that were released into the air and settled on the ground on nearby properties as fire ash.

The safety of your home and property (indoors and outdoors) has been assessed by experts. This fact sheet gives information about the assessment and cleaning that took place, and what to expect next.

## Is it safe to go back to my home?

**Yes**, the Health Officer from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has determined that it is safe for you and your family to move back home. This decision has been made based on several tests done inside your home. These tests are described in more detail below.

## What tests were conducted inside my home?

Air and dust in your home were tested for 22 different metals: aluminum, antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, cadmium, calcium, chromium, cobalt, copper, iron, lead, magnesium, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, potassium, selenium, sodium, thallium, vanadium, and zinc.

**Air tests:** the air inside of your home was tested by placing air sampling devices inside your home. Fans were used to stir up any dust and ash – to get maximum possible test readings – and air was pumped through the devices. Air was tested for all 22 metals.

**Dust tests:** the dust on your floors was also tested. Small children spend much of their time on the floor playing, so anything in the carpets can get on their hands or toys, and into their mouths. A micro-vacuum was used in five different areas in the home. Dust collected on the vacuum filter was analyzed for all 22 metals.

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## What are the test results for inside my home?

The air and dust inside your home was tested for the 22 metals listed on the previous page. Most of these metals were **not detected in your home**. The other metals that were detected were at levels that are **not considered a health risk**, based on the conservative health standards developed by environmental and public health professionals responding to this incident.

A full report of your test results will be provided to you in the upcoming weeks. Your safety remains our primary concern, and we have taken great care to evaluate all the sampling results for your home before clearing the home for your return.

## Was my property cleaned?

**Indoors:** testing done inside your home showed that indoor cleaning was not needed.

**Outdoors:** the outside of your property was cleaned to remove ash. Industrial high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter vacuum trucks removed visible ash from roofs, outside walls, concrete areas, patios and other hard surfaces, lawns, plants, and exposed soil. Smaller items like outdoor furniture, tools, toys, and bikes were rinsed with clean water in a plastic enclosure to remove any ash. Each outdoor space was evaluated for the presence of ash.

To protect your home from dust, openings into the home were sealed with plastic. To protect neighbors and workers, dust monitors were used to detect dust levels in the air. Dust levels have not triggered any dust alarms.

## What happens now?

You may now return to your home. As the cleanup continues, every effort will be made to ensure that dust and ash do not re-enter your neighborhood as a result of cleanup activities from the burned facility. You may encounter smells of burned metal and other fire debris. There should be no permanent health effects impacts from these outdoors, but they may be temporarily irritating or annoying.

LA County Public Health will be available to answer any questions you have going forward. They can be reached at 213.738.3220. For questions about the cleanup of the facility itself, you can speak with EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator, Carlin Hafiz, at 213.244.1814 or [hafiz.carlin@epa.gov](mailto:hafiz.carlin@epa.gov).

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