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# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident

July 3, 2016

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### Overview

This information answers frequently asked questions (FAQs) from displaced residents and community members about 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 FAQ provides information about the assessment and cleaning of property that took place, and what to expect next.

### General Questions

#### **When will I be permitted to move back into my home?**

The Unified Command (UC)—composed of representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, and the Los Angeles County Fire Department, among other supporting agencies—is working to get residents back into their homes as soon as possible, and appreciates their patience. Each household will receive a phone call when the Health Officer from LA County Department of Public Health lifts the evacuation order for each residence. Households will be cleared in groups or individually as they are determined safe. The UC anticipates that the first residents returning home the first full week of July 2016.

#### **What is the length of the clean-up process?**

The UC has initiated clean up activity of the fire site, however, complete cleanup of the site may take longer. The residential cleanup has been ongoing since the fire started on June 14<sup>th</sup>, when outdoor air samples were collected. Sampling information was an important step before the UC began physical cleanup of yards, then homes, on June 25<sup>th</sup>. The UC expects some residential cleanup to continue for a few more weeks.

#### **Why are some homes being evacuated or cleaned, but not mine?**

The UC has determined cleanup priorities based on the best information available. The Los Angeles County Health Officer issued an order to evacuate residents based on information and impacts from the fire. As a precautionary measure, the UC took outdoor soil samples in seven residential properties on the south side of E. 52<sup>nd</sup> St. However, no other actions are planned for south side at this time. If residents see any evidence of ash on their properties, please contact the community information center at 323-267-3843.



## My Health

### **What chemicals was I possibly exposed to? Will my family or pets suffer long term health issues?**

You and your pet may have been exposed to heavy metals and ash from burned materials of the metal recycling facility. Short-term exposure to these materials is not expected to cause long-term health effects to individuals or pets.

### **I'm just starting to feel ill now. What should I do?**

If you are feeling ill, consult your primary care provider. Public Health representatives are available at the Community Information Center to answer your health-related questions.

### **I am experiencing mental health issues: irritability, anxiousness, depression. What should I do?**

Anxiousness and irritability may occur when you are abruptly displaced from your home. Response officials are working quickly to return residents home. If you need assistance with coping or dealing with depression, consult your primary care provider or visit the Community Information Center where representatives can provide you with mental health resources.

## Legal, Insurance, and Financial Concerns

### **I've lost wages or my job because of this incident. Will I be compensated? Will you find me a new job?**

There is no employment assistance available at this time.

### **What should I do if I believe a business is price gouging because of this incident?**

Contact the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs at (800) 593-8222.

## Housing: Hotels and My Property

### **Do I have to pay my rent or utilities for this month? Who will compensate me?**

If you have special circumstances that impact your ability to pay your bills, please contact your landlord or utilities companies for assistance. Your financial obligations have not changed as a result of this incident.

### **I'm in a hotel room but I need more space. Who should I contact?**

If you continue to need assistance with housing, please contact or visit the CIC to discuss possible arrangements.

### **A property owner mentioned that his tenants don't want to pay rent because they were not living on the property. Is there anyone who can compensate the residents or him for lost rent?**

There is no program to recover this cost. The responsible party is the tenant. Contact Legal Aide for other options.



## My Pets

**I am concerned for the health and safety of my pet. Is there somewhere safe I can board it until this is over? How much does it cost? What should I do?**

LA County Animal Care and Control in Downey will tend to your pet(s) for free while you are displaced from your home. For more information, contact that office and inform them that you was displaced from your home as a result of the Maywood fire incident.

## Street Closures

**The Community Information Center trailer on Everett Avenue is blocking the street. When will you remove it?**

We anticipate moving the trailer the week of July 3<sup>rd</sup> so it does not block access to 52<sup>nd</sup> Street.