



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident

July 5, 2016 2nd Edition

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. *This is the second set of FAQs prepared following the fire.*

General Questions

I heard only residents of E. 52nd St. could use the Community Information Center (CIC). Who is the CIC a resource for?

The CIC is a resource for the entire community, regardless of whether you live on E. 52nd St.

There is a smell during activities on the site. It would be great to get notification when you're working.

Intermittent work has been on-going at the fire scene, and representatives have notified residents along E. 52nd St. door-to-door and by text messaging to ensure they are aware of the work and that odors may ensue.

Not enough information getting out. Would you please provide more information?

Representatives are available at the CIC every day of the week from 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. to answer questions and share information. The CIC is also reachable by phone at (323) 267-3843. As residences are cleared by the LA County Department of Public Health and the Unified Command (UC) for re-entry, residents will be notified to return.

What is the status of the cleanup? When will you be done?

The UC is working as quickly as possible to complete the cleanup and get residents back in their homes. We will notify displaced residents as soon as sampling and cleanup work is completed and your residence has been cleared by the UC and LA County Health Officer for re-entry. It is anticipated the residential cleanup should continue for a couple more weeks at most, and the cleanup of the facility at 3570 Fruitland Ave. is anticipated to continue for the next two of months.



My Health

Why did only some residents receive an air purifier?

Air purifiers were distributed by Southern California Gas Company and were not part of UC's response activities. If you would like more information about the air purifiers, please call Southern California Gas Company customer service at: 1-800-427-2200.

Legal, Insurance, and Financial Concerns

My insurance company says they need a point of contact to begin the reimbursement process. Whom should I talk to?

Your insurance company or legal representative will have to speak with Todd Breuneau at Washington-Finnegan, Inc., which is the insurance company for Panda International Trading company. Mr. Breuneau can be reached at (323) 267-3843, toddbruneau@washington-finnegan.com.

I was approached by an attorney who forced me into signing a retainer, but I don't fully understand what that means. Can you help me understand this process?

The Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles organization will have representatives at the CIC on Thursday, July 7 from 5:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. to consult with you one-on-one with any legal questions related to this incident. If you would like more information, please contact the CIC at (323) 267-3843.

Housing: Hotels and My Property

I live on the south side of E. 52nd St. and I have some blown-out windows from the explosion. Could someone come and fix these windows? How do I get reimbursed if I already fixed the windows?"

Your insurance company or legal representative will have to speak with Todd Breuneau at Washington-Finnegan, Inc., which is the insurance company for Panda International Trading company. Mr. Breuneau can be reached at (323) 267-3843, toddbruneau@washington-finnegan.com.

Street Closures

Can I retrieve my car from the north side of E. 52nd St.?

Yes. All cars on the north side of E. 52nd St. can be picked up. Following the fire, all vehicles were hosed down by responding agencies.

The CIC trailer on Everett Avenue is blocking the street. When will you remove it?

The trailer will be moved in phases from its current location during the week of July 3. There will be no interruption of services as the CIC is moved, and notice will be given to all displaced residents when its final location is determined. It is anticipated that the CIC will be on-site until June 10.