



# Summary of Property Cleanup Actions

*The inside and outside of your home is clean*

## 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 the metal recycling facility located 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 of nearby properties as fire ash.

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

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

**Yes.** Based on available data, experts have determined that **it is safe for you and your family to return home.** This decision was made based on tests done inside your home. These tests are described in more detail below.

## What tests were conducted inside my home?

As the burned facility recycled metal, air and dust in your home was 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 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 material in the air was collected on a filter and tested for all 22 metals.

**Surface tests:** The dust on floors was also tested. Small children spend much of their play time on the floor, so anything on the carpet can transfer to their hands or toys, and into their mouths. A micro-vacuum collected dust from five different areas in the home, and the vacuum filter was then analyzed for all 22 metals.



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

Prior to cleaning, some of these metals mentioned on the previous page were detected in your home, however, **a professional company cleaned your property.**

A full report of 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 the test results of your home before allowing you to return.

## Was my property cleaned?

**Indoors:** Tests showed the inside of your home contained material related to the fire. Prior to cleaning, professionals conducted an inventory to ensure no items were left unaddressed.

The following areas were cleaned by professionals:



*Structural:* carpets and floors; ceilings and walls; countertops; ductwork and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems

*Contents:* art; bedding; clothing\*; draperies and window coverings; electronics; furniture; kitchen items; upholstery; wood furniture; and other items.

Following indoor cleaning, air and dust were again tested, and results showed that **your home is safe to re-occupy.**

Figure 1: A cleaning crew vacuuming a home prior to re-occupation

\* Note: All clothing was taken off-site and cleaned by a professional cleaner to ensure safe for use.



**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—such as windows and doors— were sealed with plastic. To protect neighbors and workers, monitors were used to detect dust levels in the air. The neighborhood dust levels have not been elevated, and, as a result, the plastic used to seal your home has been removed.



*Figure 2: Cleanup crews removing ash from residential property exterior on E. 52<sup>nd</sup> St.*

## What happens now?

**You may now return to your home.** As the cleanup activities continue, every effort will be made to ensure that dust and ash do not re-enter your neighborhood. Occasionally, you may notice burned metal and other fire debris odors. However, there will be no permanent health impacts from this nuisance.

LA County Public Health will be available to answer any further questions you may have. They can be reached at 213.738.3220. For questions about the facility cleanup, 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).