



**KALAMAZOO
COUNTY GOVERNMENT**
Health & Community Services Department



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**No Contact Advisory lifted along Kalamazoo River following multi-day
sampling results**

KALAMAZOO, Mich: The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department, in cooperation with the City of Kalamazoo Department of Public Services, is lifting the 'No Contact Advisory' in effect for the Kalamazoo River between the Paterson Street Bridge in the city of Kalamazoo and the D. Avenue Bridge in Cooper Township. Health officials issued the advisory Wednesday, March 13 as a precautionary measure following a methylene chloride spill within Pfizer's process area.

"Sampling results revealed that 50-to-60 gallons of methylene chloride entered the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant over the several-day-period following an unintentional release on Pfizer's facility," City of Kalamazoo Director of Public Services James Baker said. "That's well within our treatment capacity of 291 gallons a day."

At the time of the advisory, an unknown amount of the colorless liquid was discharged into a dedicated sanitary sewer serving Pfizer, which then flows to the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant (KWRP) for treatment. Laboratory analysis of the dedicated sanitary sewer serving Pfizer, all flows entering the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant, and the Kalamazoo River confirmed that Pfizer was able to contain over 94% of the original 1,057 gallon release.

"This situation could have been drastically different if not for the swift action and coordination between all involved," Kalamazoo County Health Officer Jim Rutherford said.

While sampling results prove there is no risk to public health along the stretch of Kalamazoo River associated with the chemical release, please be sure to review and recognize existing fish consumption advisories along the Kalamazoo River and other waterways through the [Eat Safe Fish Guide](#).

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