



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

NEWS RELEASE

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Resident Awareness on Smoke Affects from Neighboring County Fire

KALAMAZOO, MI— Kalamazoo County is beginning to see the effects of a large fire burning South of the County's border. The fire began at Michiana Decorative Mulch Company near Mottville in St. Joseph County. The fire is being actively monitored by local and regional firefighters. At this time, there is no concern that the fire will continue to spread. However, it is projected to take several days for the fire to fully burn out.

Due to the size of the fire, roughly 15 acres in all, and as a result of the current wind direction there may be areas of Kalamazoo County where Residents may see and smell the smoke produced by the fire. At this time, there is no concern for any health related hazards or risks associated with the smoke. Individuals with asthma or similar pulmonary issues may be more likely to be aggravated by the smoke and are urged to remain indoors in areas where smoke is visible in the County.

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services and Kalamazoo County Emergency Management are working together along with local fire authorities and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to monitor the situation to ensure the health and safety of Kalamazoo County Residents.

"We are urging residents to remain aware of their surroundings and to monitor news and media outlets for current information. However, we do not feel that there should be any serious health impacts to County Residents as a result of the smoke at this time" shares Jim Rutherford, MPA, Health Officer for Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services.

Public Health Officials ask residents to remain aware and to follow these tips for protecting themselves and their families:

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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- If you have asthma:
 - Be consistent about taking your medicines, as prescribed by your doctor
 - Limit your time out of doors in areas impacted by smoke
- All Residents:
 - If it looks quite smoky outside it is probably not the best time to go for a run or to have your children playing outdoors. Stay in doors with windows and doors closed.

For more information, please contact the Kalamazoo County Office of Emergency Management at (269) 385-6137.

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Kalamazoo County Government
Health & Community Services Department

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