



City of La Salle

La Salle County, Illinois

City Offices - 745 Second Street - La Salle, Illinois 61301-2501

Bus: 815-223-3755

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www.lasalle-il.gov



Hello all,

The City of La Salle has conducted an independent, third-party environmental study of your neighborhood following the Carus Chemical fire last month. A copy of that study is included here for your review and is available on our website. This is a shortened version, the full version can be found online at lasalle-il.gov. While the City of La Salle trusts the information previously provided by organizations such as the United States and Illinois Environmental Protection Agencies, we also recognized a desire in the community for an additional opinion especially as it relates to long-term remediation. Brownfield Environmental Engineering Resources ultimately found that all soil samples were below the IEPA's soil remediations objectives. While our engineer has recommended in the report that further testing will not be necessary, we will have a second series of tests conducted to ensure the levels currently found in the soil continue to remain the same or are lowered further.

We understand recent events have been frustrating as residents work with Carus Chemical and/or their insurance companies following the fire. While the City of La Salle is limited with regard to resources we have available to us, we have been in regular contact with multiple organizations including the earlier mentioned ones as well as local and state health organizations. While the City is unable to provide expert opinions in most of these cases, we can work with others to address concerns. An example of this would be residents raising a concern to us about a recently deceased deer in the area and if it related to the recent fire. We made contact with Conservation Police that night and they examined the deer determining it was likely hit by a vehicle. Additionally, we have heard reports that a recent Illinois Environmental Protection Agency soil study determined there were high levels of metals in the soil results. It is our understanding that particular sample was taken from onsite at the Carus facility and is not representative of an individual resident's soil sample.

We also understand that many in your community have concerns about the Carus Chemical warehouse east of Zinc Street and north of Porter Avenue that has operated there for many years. The La Salle County Emergency Management Agency conducted a walk-through of the facility late last month which reported most of the previously reported material inside had been moved out. The chemical remaining is, according to the report, Manganese Dioxide which has a National Fire Protection Association rating of 1 for health and 0 for fire and reactivity. Still, we

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have officially asked Carus Chemical to consider moving the reduced amount of material to a different location to ease residents' concerns following the fire.

We have also asked them if, through their already established hotline at 815-224-6662, they can reimburse residents who want to further test their own properties or have their own soil testing opportunities for community members wanting individual testing.

If you do have additional health related questions or concerns that have still not been addressed, you can email the Illinois Department of Public Health at dph.tox@illinois.gov.

We will update you further if we learn new information that is relevant to the community.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jeff Grove

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