

13 September 2018

## The fire at West Footscray/Tottenham

On Thursday 30 August, there was a fire at the warehouse at 420 Sommerville Rd, Tottenham. Emergency Management Victoria, Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Melbourne Water, EPA and local government have all been involved in the response.

Acting as a support agency, EPA is monitoring air and water quality in the affected areas and providing advice around the potential human health impacts. More information from EPA is available at [epa.vic.gov.au/WFFire](http://epa.vic.gov.au/WFFire).

## Air quality update

No smoke is being detected from the fire site. Some odour has been detected along Stony Creek from residual chemicals from the fire. EPA deployed canisters to measure volatile organic compounds (VOCs) at several locations along Stony Creek over several days to understand any risks posed by these odours. To date, all results do not show any risk to the community.

Smoke data from EPA's air monitoring in Brooklyn, Altona and Footscray for the duration of the incident is available at [epa.vic.gov.au/WFFire](http://epa.vic.gov.au/WFFire).

EPA sampled air at numerous residential sites for asbestos and results were below the level of detection.

## Water quality update

Over the incident, EPA has been conducting comprehensive water sampling in Stony Creek and inspecting areas of Port Phillip Bay from Brighton through to Williamstown. In the coming days and weeks, EPA is targeting water quality analysis on contaminants that have been found in Stony Creek.

Results so far have found a range of chemicals in the water including detergents, industrial solvents such as phenol and a group of volatile industrial solvent compounds called BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene), PFAS, and fire combustion by-products (polyaromatic hydrocarbons). Levels of chemicals found in Stony Creek are decreasing as clean-up starts and EPA will continue to monitor these during recovery.

Residents are advised to avoid all contact with water in Stony Creek and keep pets away from the creek. For up-to-date information and warnings, check [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au).



## Community engagement

EPA is maintaining a strong community engagement presence in the Maribyrnong and Hobsons Bay area. Staff will continue to be in Cruickshank Park over the next week.

EPA's Chief Environmental Scientist spoke at a community meeting on Thursday 6 September and answered questions from community members. A video of the meeting is available at [epa.vic.gov.au/WFFire](http://epa.vic.gov.au/WFFire).

EPA is collecting evidence on health impacts experienced by residents. Please call EPA on **1300 372 842** (1300 EPA VIC).

## Next steps

EPA is working closely with Maribyrnong City Council and waterway managers to develop a recovery plan for Stony Creek and surrounding areas.

The recovery of Stony Creek and surrounds will take some time, but we will let you know when it's no longer necessary to avoid contact with the water and how you can be involved in the recovery effort.

For information relating to recovery, please email [recovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:recovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au) or visit [www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/recovery](http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/recovery).