

Fact sheet

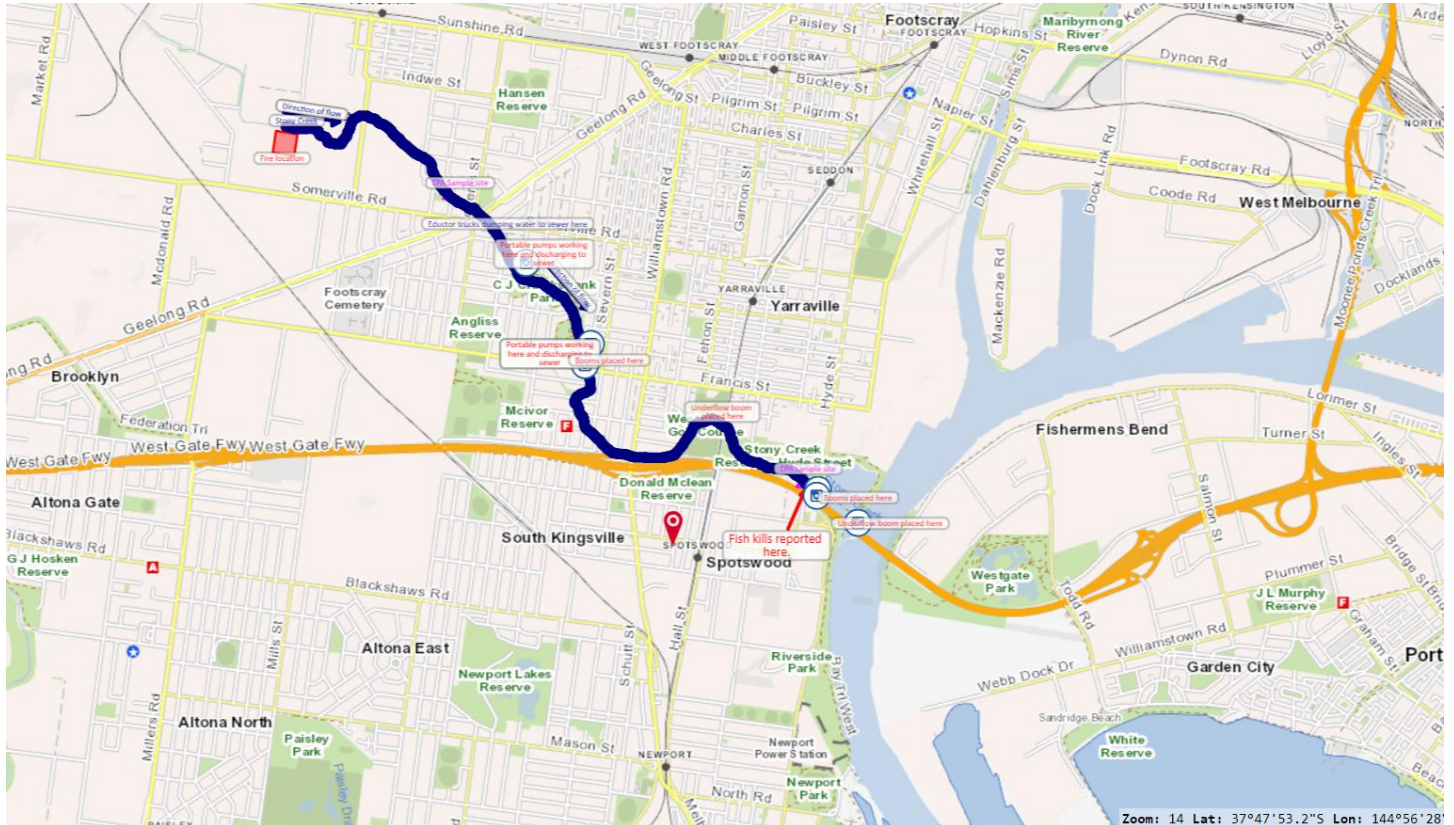
Waterways around the West Footscray industrial fire



Environment
Protection
Authority Victoria

Thursday 6 September 2018

Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) is supporting Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) to respond to a fire at an industrial site in West Footscray. EPA, local government and MFB officers are working to contain the flow of fire water used to battle the West Footscray fire but significant run off has entered local waterways.



This map was generated from Google Maps. The blue line shows the local waterway Stony Creek.

Health information

As a result of the West Footscray Industrial fire, fire water has entered Stony Creek. As a precaution avoid eating fishing in the Stony Creek, Lower Yarra and Hobsons Bay until further notice. The current advice is:

- Avoid contact with water in Stony Creek
- Some odours were noted from fire water in Stony Creek. Chemicals identified in the firewater are known to cause odour, even at low concentrations
- Odour levels are expected to decrease over the coming day
- As a precaution avoid eating fish from Stony Creek or the lower part of the Yarra River from the West Gate Bridge
- Don't let pets swim in the area or drink the water
- Don't walk along the edge of Stony Creek
- Avoid Cruickshank Park in Yarraville until conditions improve
- **If you come into contact with contaminated water, remove wet clothing and wash areas of your body that have come into contact with contaminated water with warm soapy water.**
- **Seek medical help if you feel unwell**



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If you need interpreter assistance or want this document translated, please call 131 450 and advise your preferred language.

Water quality monitoring

EPA is continuing to monitor air and water quality from the West Footscray industrial fire, which has now entered the clean-up phase.

EPA has analysed water for a range of pollutants from the Stony Creek area and continues to warn against consumption of fish taken from the area and to avoid contact with the water and to keep pets from swimming in it.

The results show that a range of industrial chemical solvents, detergents and fire soot particles were washed into Stony Creek. The key chemicals detected were phenol (an industrial chemical and cleaning product), polyaromatic hydrocarbons (fire and soot byproducts), chemicals called BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene), and industrial solvents such as acetone and butanone.

Concentrations of these chemicals were very high in Stony Creek on Thursday 30 August and caused rapid death of fish and aquatic life in Stony Creek, reported by EPA officers at the time.

The chemicals in some cases exceeded human health recreational contact guidelines and so the advice remains for people to avoid contact with water in Stony Creek. Avoid eating fish from Stony Creek, Lower Yarra and Hobsons Bay.

Conditions in Stony Creek have improved since Thursday 30 August due to remediation measures put in place by Melbourne Water including pumping water from the Creek.

The nature of industrial chemical solvents is that they will rapidly degrade over a period of hours to days after the source has stopped.

EPA and Melbourne Water have placed additional signage into the area to alert people to the potential hazard as well as using social media and mainstream media.

<p>NOTICE ABOUT WATER QUALITY</p> <p>Due to a recent pollution event, it is recommended that you avoid any contact with the water, including eating fish caught in this waterway.</p> <p>Pets should also be prevented from entering or drinking the water.</p> <p>For further information please contact Environment Protection Authority Victoria on 1300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC).</p> 	<p>Thông báo! Xin đừng tiếp xúc với nước</p> <p>Vì sự kiện xảy ra gần đây xin quý vị đừng tiếp xúc với nước ở con kênh này.</p> <p>Xin đừng câu cá hoặc cho các thú nuôi tiếp xúc với nước.</p> <p>Nếu quý vị muốn biết thêm thông tin xin gọi Environment Protection Authority Victoria 1300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC).</p> 
	

Test results from the Yarra River section where the creek enters indicate no impact due to dilution from the larger river and tidal flushing.

Stony Creek has been impacted by fire water runoff. Strong odours are coming from water near the site of the fire and around Cruickshank Park. EPA is monitoring water quality all the way to the Bay

Access to information and support

- Incident information and updates: [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au)
- Up-to-date air quality information: [epa.vic.gov.au/airwatch](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/airwatch)
- Information about the impacts of smoke: [epa.vic.gov.au/smoke](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/smoke)
- Call EPA 24-hours a day on **1300 372 842** (1300 EPA VIC)