

Questions from Public on BFD Controlled Burn

Note: These questions were submitted by members of the public during an informational meeting hosted by Councilmember Dave Rollo on November 10, 2021 to address issues surrounding a controlled burn conducted by the Bloomington Fire Department on November 5, 2021. Information on this controlled burn, along with any answers or responses from the City Administration to the questions contained herein, will be available at: <https://bloomington.in.gov/bfdburninfo>. The questions listed below are provided as submitted.

1. From Sara Friedman (she/her): Dave, is the form on the website the same as the Google doc that was circulated on the neighborhood listserv?
2. From Priscilla Borges (she/her) to Stephen Lucas (Direct Message): If you are taking questions, is the city aware of the creek really near the burned house (East of it)? It might take the hazard through the town, not only keeping it locally.
3. From Sarah Pearce (she/her): Question for when it is time for questions: Will there be outreach to households with young children and vegetable gardens? I am very concerned that all communication has been non-official up to now. This should happen!
4. From Diane Henshel: And will you be testing blood levels for the kids, especially the kids in schools that encircle the site (3 w/in about a mile)
5. From Priscilla Borges (she/her): Roger Binford kids were outside in playground while the fire was happening. Testing kids seems like a reasonable request.
6. From Peter: How will we eventually know the costs related to the incident? How will the city pay for remediation? What is the potential for litigation related to human exposure?
7. From Kejal Macdonald: Were there any chips that tested positive north of Maxwell?
8. From Joseph Varga: I would like the identity of the firefighter who threatened to arrest Mr. Murphy, as reported in the HT.
9. From Kejal Macdonald: Has any testing been done / debris been found east of high street?
10. From Jean Scott: Someone mentioned surrounding schools. Were they checked? The aren't circled on the map.
11. From Leslie Rutkowski: I *just* stopped my husband using the leaf blower and mower right now. This needs to be publicly announced. We are in the "heavy" fallout area.
12. From John Shukle: Hello All, We will be passing out over 500 testing kits for soil lead, and paint chips to homes surrounding this event. The kits will let you test soil from multiple locations around your property for lead, worms from your property for lead, and collect paint chips from your property for testing as well. I will talk more about these kits, and other home exposure testing options we can offer you later tonight. Testing of all kits is free.
13. From Jean Scott: I assume city workers picking up leaves will wear protective gear of some kind?
14. From victoriabedford: Are you accepting vacuum cleaner bags?
 - a. From John Shukle: Yes, we will accept vacuum cleaner samples! It will discuss this more later, but we would like to get vacuum samples from anyone who wants to submit them.
15. From Priscilla Borges (she/her): Please let us know where this meeting recording will be saved?
16. From Dave: Question: Why is this Private Citizen (thankful though I am for his work) doing all this Work and not the City?
17. From Tricia: Was any testing done on Viva Dr. so fqr? Matt's first map map looks like we are outside affected area but I can't tell whether that is based on testing, based on Matt's second map. And yes, thank you Matt!
18. From Joseph Varga: Thank you, Matt. Where can people send samples?
19. From Leslie Rutkowski: Can we get a copy of that map?

- a. From Matt: I can provide copies of my maps to anybody who would like one. Email me at: mrmurp@gmail.com or text / call me at (812) 327-7357
20. From Jennifer's iPhone: Should we get blood tests for lead? My doctor's office today said that it didn't make sense unless we saw symptoms (my kids are 12 through 17). I had thought maybe it would be good to get a baseline.
21. From Diane Henshel: Jennifer - the data from the last 10 - 20 years says any additional lead exposure Mal-affects the developing brain. Any. And you can't always tell in the short term if behavior issues, as an early indicator, is from tiredness, stress, food or lead in this kind of case.
22. From Donald: As a member of the EC this will likely be a topic at next week's meeting. One of the data that I will attempt to collect is NWS weather data for the day from their website. It may show variations in wind velocity and direction during the controlled burn. Also EC members have been discussing this since the recognition of the incident. One of my concerns is that lead paint's ban took effect in 1978, thus structures that day from that period one must be aware of the likelihood of lead paint.
23. From Peter: Who owns this property? Did the city provide a concession to the owner that, for example, reduced the owner's cost to demolish a condemned house? What happens to the property now?
24. From sklausin: due to high temps from the structure fire, is lead fume exposure an issue for folks (especially kids) in the area? if so this seems a good reason to prohibit complete burn of homes during these training
25. From John Shukle: We will pass out soil/worm/paint chip sampling kits to houses surrounding this event. ~500 kits will be delivered to mailboxes or front doors starting this week and next. Kits can be returned via mail, or via a drop-off location at the Environmental Resilience Institute on the IU campus. Kits will include sampling materials and complete instructions.
26. From aruddy@indiana.edu: For those properties that registered for assessment, when will we be contacted regarding the assessment completion and results?
27. From Lisa T: Adequate iron supplements are important for children who are lead exposed
28. From Diane Henshel: And Dave and Susan and any other council person - please make even the bloomington government need to follow the currently existing Bloomington no open burning law.
29. From Matt: I can also collect samples from anybody who would like to give them to me. I will pass them along to Dr. Filippelli's lab
30. From Lisa T: high iron intake and sufficient iron stores may reduce the risk of lead poisoning
31. From Regina Moore: What is the probability of lead from streets, driveways, etc., will spread from this area as cars, bikes, strollers travel to other areas of the city?
32. From Emily Manvel Leite: Will remediation also happen indoors?
33. From Ernesto: Any testing on Templeton elementary school grounds?
34. From Jean Scott: Check with Dr first before taking high levels of iron
35. From Diane Henshel: Lisa T - Calcium also reduces ingestion, but it's a co-ingestion inhibition for iron and calcium.
36. From Jennifer's iPhone: How frequently should we change the filters in our HVAC system if we were in the zone close to the burn site?
37. From sseizer: What did the permits that allowed then burn to take place mean? What guarantees do they give regarding safety? Do they need to be reviewed?
38. From Lisa T: Always check with pediatrician for children for sure
39. From sseizer: What about smoke/gas inhalation on the day of the burn?
40. From Diane Henshel: I think the city should be paying for blood lead tests for all the elementary kids potentially exposed, that does include Templeton, and probably Childs and of course Rogers-Binford.
41. From sseizer: Why was information to the neighborhood before the burn so poor? There was no way we had time to review the implications of the burn and no time to do research.
42. From sseizer: Can I get background soil samples tested?
43. From Jennifer Bradley: Where is John Hamilton? Why isn't he meeting with us at all?

44. From Steve: Is the Fire Chief the ultimate Person for the Approval of this exercise? Was the mayors staff involved. How did the homeowner come up With the Idea of having the City demolish this Home?
45. From aruddy@indiana.edu: When will instructions regarding leaf gathering , mowing etc be distributed?
46. From Jennifer's iPhone: Is it fine to have windows open or should we wait till it rains?
47. From Jennifer's iPhone: Should we use paper towels to wipe surfaces for testing?
48. From Beth Samuelson (she/her/hers): Can hear mowing in affected area right now. How can we quickly get the word out?
49. From Ingrid: Is remediation doing roof cleaning at all?
50. From Kejal Macdonald: I know East of high street is considered outside of the exposure zone, but has any testing been done to confirm that?
51. From sklausin: can the city put signs up in bryan park to let people know about potential risks?
52. From Kejal Macdonald: How far beyond this area was testing done?
53. From ellen: So where is the rain water going with the lead dust
54. From Julie Bloom: I'm going to assume that the city will be financially and physically responsible for mitigating the damage. Is that a good assumption?
55. From Jennifer's iPhone: Given that my pediatrician was skeptical about the value of testing kids in the affected are for lead, I wonder if the scale and amount of lead and the whole so could be conveyed to local doctors by Dr. Frank or other medical authorities?
56. From Janice Sorby: Have the Bryan Park playgrounds been tested?
57. From Diane Henshel: Also, haven't heard a word about testing for the wonderful furans / dioxins from the combustion of the mixed materials, including plastics, in the house.
58. From Mary Held: I had a person working in my yard that morning while the burn was happening. She was raking and blowing leaves. Should she be tested?
59. From sseizer: Are there things we can plant to pull lead out of the soil?
60. From Ingrid: How will be know when the remediation is complete?
61. From Regina Moore: Will the boulevard of Southdowns and Sheridan receive mediation treatment?
62. From Patricia Foster: were the lead analyses done on the actual chips? If so they do not reflect the dispersed levels?
 - a. From John Shukle: @Patricia Analyses were on paint chips and on mixed soil and paint chip samples, and on multiple types of wipe samples.
63. From Kerry Thomson: In the absence of an executive order or mayoral leadership on this all in the area should reach out to neighbors to encourage them not to use blowers/mowers, and to submit testing samples. I've contacted two. neighbors with young children while on this call. Neither were aware of the problem.
64. From Chris Kowalczyk: What about the soil? Are they willing to do soil remediation moving forward?
65. From Dave: Question: Why is the MAYOR not leading this discussion? Where is the MAYOR on this?
66. From sklausin: information should also be provided to people who are collecting water
67. From kkeough@iu.edu: If you are in the "hot" zone - why in the world do you need to fill out the form?? Seems to me that the City would be contacted me to get the job done!
68. From Chris Kowalczyk: It is insane that people are volunteering (Matt, the scientists at IUPUI) prompted by us, rather than the City initiating any of it.
69. From Jeff Richardson: I am astounded that so many people are just find out about the potential danger of lead contamination. What about all those people who are not on list serves or engaged in neighborhood associations. What is the City's plan to reach people who are still in the dark about this situation including those outside to the "core" area?
70. From sseizer: Maybe Rogers Binford should go virtual until we know what's happening there.
71. From Janice Sorby: Will Tempelton elementary soil be tested
72. From Diane Henshel: Sue - I would feel better to have all three schools tested ASAP and then make that decision.
73. From Kejal Macdonald: Is there any concern about ash from the smaller fires leading up to Friday?

74. From Ellee Spier: Are the owners of the property assisting in any way financially or with the remediation?
75. From Steve: Dont forget about St Charles school and the 3 surrounding churches
76. From Kejal Macdonald: Again, how do we know houses to the east are not also in danger if no testing has been done there?
77. From Jeff Richardson: Need a comprehensive City communication plan (beyond emailing to select list serve) put into place asap.
78. From Kejal Macdonald: I agree Diane. Surrounding areas need to be continued to be tested by the city, including all the schools as multiple people have said. Binford-Rogers, Templeton, Child's, St. Charles, and Harmony School.
79. From Sarah Pearce (she/her): Just to get this out there—Do the paper towel samples because I am not confident that the flakes will outlast the rain. I wish I could believe that but I do not. My fear is that they will stop vacuuming post-rain and that would be bad.
80. From Ellee Spier: We live directly to the south. Tuesday through Thursday the small burns filled our garage and outdoor air with toxins. Hopefully, all properties around ground zero will be tested as well.
81. From sklausin: people with children near the area or who use it (the park, schools) should be notified, have the risks explained, and given appropriate precautions please
82. From Leah Wood: Something to consider regarding growing plants the absorb lead: The research on this strategy is very mixed. What happens to the lead in the plant after the plant dies? If the plant decomposes in place, the lead is simply returned to the soil. If you put the plants in your compost pile, the lead contaminates your compost.
83. From Lisa T: There certainly should be public information widely disseminated about how to protect children and vulnerable populations from lead poisoning, and minimize impact on exposure
84. From Jennifer's iPhone: Yes. I'd also like to get guidance on composting. Should we still compost our leaves this year?