

Friday, July 22, 2022

Dear Residents and Friends of Shorewood,

This has been a busy week for our community. The Tri County Stockdale fire on Tuesday, July 19th has created several challenges to overcome. Please note our staff and partners are working extraordinarily hard to contend with the unexpected impacts on our neighborhoods. This is a multi-jurisdictional response and we are relying on your patience and continued cooperation to work through the problems and return to normalcy.

First, the air quality is safe. US EPA has been on site since the Tuesday evening monitoring air quality at the fire site and several locations around the area. We continue to work with federal and state EPA agencies who are committed to air quality testing into next week. US EPA has established a webpage at https://response.epa.gov/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=15692 which provides updates to the air quality testing they are conducting.

Second, the Village of Shorewood water system and wells are not affected. The materials from the fire site and runoff have not gotten into our municipal water system and our wells are distant enough that we have been assured there is no compromise of our water sources.

Third, our staff and partners have worked very hard to contain the materials from spreading any further. The Will County Emergency Management Agency has worked with public and private entities to ensure the fire site is now contained to prevent future spread of materials. Once the materials were discovered in our storm sewer system and detention ponds, Village of Shorewood staff and our partners worked hard to contain any future spread and have begun the cleanup and mitigation process.

The cleanup will take time. We are still testing, ascertaining the extent and concentration of materials as well as the types of materials that migrated from the fire site into our storm sewer system and the detention ponds located Saddle Brook, Edgewater South, and Rollingwood subdivisions. Village staff and contractors will be seen in various locations around town in the coming days. Highland Drive will be closed between North Raven and Rollingwood drive while crews work against weather to further contain the materials from spreading downstream into the DuPage River and beyond with the anticipated precipitation this weekend. The ponds in Saddlebrook are being tested by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and plans will begin soon on how to contend with the challenges of those two ponds.

In the meantime, we continue to request people not recreate at or near the ponds. We will be posting no fishing signs around affected ponds and we believe it is prudent to advise no fishing until we receive an "All Clear" from the appropriate agencies. The Will County Health Department flyer at <https://willcountyhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/FAQs-Shorewood-Fire-7.22.2022.pdf> provides guidance on the concerns from the fire including chemicals in the smoke, protection and cleaning surfaces, impacts to air systems, drinking water risk and gardens. Contact numbers for health concerns are listed as well as other appropriate resources.

The Village of Shorewood, Troy Fire Department, Will County Emergency Management Agency and our collective state and federal partners will continue to work on the problem until the work is completed. Emergency police, fire or EMS concerns are best addressed by calling 911. Additional questions can be emailed to info@vil.shorewood.il.us and will be routed to the appropriate agency for a response.

Respectfully,
Aaron G. Klima
Village Administrator