

Epping and Campbellfield chemical storage



Environment
Protection
Authority Victoria



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Information bulletin

Overview

Chemical storage containers were found during inspections of industrial sites at Epping and Campbellfield on 28 December 2018. Inspections detected evidence of leakage, strong fumes and a potential fire risk.

The sites have now been contained and there is a 24-hour security presence. There is no immediate threat to the community. The inspections involved Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA), Victoria Police, WorkSafe, Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) and Country Fire Authority (CFA).

What was found during the inspections?

A concerning amount of liquid chemical waste was found at seven industrial sites in Campbellfield and Epping.

The specific chemicals and volumes are yet to be determined, which is why EPA and other agencies are taking safety precautions.

The inspections were the result of EPA's investigative work following leads in the wake of the West Footscray warehouse fire in August.

Is there any danger to residents and businesses surrounding the sites?

The waste is contained and there is no current risk to those located near the sites.

EPA will continue providing updates on the management of the sites and contacting local community, businesses and other people near the sites.

Updates will be provided on EPA's website:
www.epa.vic.gov.au

What is being done about it?

Security

EPA has arranged for 24/7 security at the Campbellfield and Epping sites to prevent access.

Do you need this document translated?

If you need help from an interpreter or want this information bulletin translated, please call 131 450 and ask for your preferred language.

Further information and updates

Contact EPA on
1300 372 842 (24 hours)
(1300 EPA VIC)
or epa.vic.gov.au

- Incident information and updates:
emergency.vic.gov.au
- Up-to-date air quality information:
epa.vic.gov.au/airwatch
- Information about smoke and your health:
epa.vic.gov.au/smoke
- Emergency information:
epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/emergency-information



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Air monitoring

EPA has deployed portable air monitoring equipment to the Epping and Campbellfield sites and is monitoring air quality in the area.

Working with the site occupier

Hume and Whittlesea Councils along with EPA and WorkSafe are coordinating with the site occupier to arrange a staged removal of the chemical waste to minimise any risk.

What if there is a fire at one of the sites?

If there is an active fire in your area, safety is the first priority.

If you are in immediate danger, call **000**.

You can also visit www.emergency.vic.gov.au or call the VicEmergency hotline **1800 226 226**.

For health concerns, including any symptoms that may be due to smoke exposure, seek medical advice or call NURSE-ON-CALL on **1300 60 60 24**.

Follow @vicemergency on Twitter for the latest updates.

Listen to advice from emergency services on what you need to do:

Metropolitan Fire Brigade
www.mfb.vic.gov.au

Country Fire Authority
www.cfa.vic.gov.au

VicEmergency
www.emergency.vic.gov.au

Industrial fires and smoke

Industrial sites may store a range of chemicals used in the manufacturing process, as well as a range of products.

If an industrial site has a fire, there is a possibility of pollutants being released from the site that affect the local environment and affect human health.

Smoke and air quality

Smoke from industrial fires can impact air quality. Small particles in smoke usually cause the most concern.

Children, the elderly, and people with pre-existing health conditions need to be particularly careful during smoky conditions.

What should I do?

- Where possible, avoid exposure to the smoke.
- If you have heart or lung conditions, follow your treatment plan.
- Look out for elderly neighbours, or other people at risk.
- If you continue to feel unwell, seek medical help.

Odour

There may be some odour present in the event of an industrial fire.

What should I do?

Avoid the area if the odour makes you feel unwell. Seek medical help if you continue to feel unwell.