

Husky Superior Refinery Smoke

What you need to know | Health Effects

All indications are that the fire is out and the smoke is clearing.

Smoke affects people differently. Smoke contains many chemicals and particulates that can be irritating or harmful. Smoke can cause a range of health problems, from burning eyes and a runny nose, to aggravated chronic heart and lung diseases.

While not everyone has the same sensitivity to smoke, it's still a good idea to avoid breathing smoke if you can help it. Talk to your doctor about any health concerns.

Clean after evacuation

Soot from the fire might settle on surrounding properties.

You are able to wash ash and soot with soap and water as you would regularly for cleaning your house. Remember, it is always important to protect yourself from chemicals and materials while cleaning so we recommend wearing gloves.

Air quality is continuing to be monitored

Various agencies are monitoring the air quality around Douglas County. This includes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the rail and oil company. Air quality monitoring is reported to be at safe levels.

As we gather air quality data we will consult federal, state, and local partners on long-term health implications.

Some people are more at risk to develop health issues from smoke.

The following individuals should pay close attention to air quality advice as long as there is smoke:

- people with heart or lung disease (like asthma, COPD, or lung cancer)
- older adults
- children
- pregnant women

If you have any of the above risks and are concerned about your health, we advise that you call your medical provider.

For the latest information on this issue, refer to the Douglas County website

www.douglascountywi.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=520

