

NEWS RELEASE

EPA Air Monitoring Ongoing Following Monday's Fire

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(October 4, 2011) Following the October 3 fire at the Magnablend Central Facility in Waxahachie, the Environmental Protection Agency began monitoring air quality within the area. This monitoring process includes testing for particulates in the air, including smoke and soot generated by the fire. Monitoring is taking place at the site of the fire around the perimeter, and at locations one quarter mile, one half mile and one mile from the site. Readings from these sites are checked hourly and averaged over each 24 hour period. On October 4, the City of Waxahachie was provided the following statement from the EPA.

An EPA emergency response team has been on the scene of the Magnablend Central Facility fire in Waxahachie, Texas and is assisting local and state officials. EPA is continuing to conduct ground level air monitoring. Additional initial air monitoring data from over night and early morning using ground level portable sampling devices continued to not show elevated toxic chemicals. EPA will share results with the public as soon as possible. Information has been shared with local emergency responders and officials to assist them in making decisions regarding the response activities. Citizens should follow instructions provided by local officials who are overseeing this response.

The City of Waxahachie will continue to keep residents informed of all issues related to air quality or any other issues that might arise as a result of Monday's fire. For health related questions, two numbers have been established for citizens to call for more information. Residents may call Ellis County at 972-825-5194, or the Department of State Health Services at 817-264-4949.

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