



"Your Local
Health Department"

NEWS RELEASE
JUNE 29, 2017

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOTTVILLE FIRE PRESS RELEASE

Three Rivers, MI, Residents in St. Joseph County are seeing the effects of a large fire burning that has been burning in the Mottville area. The fire started at Michiana Decorative Mulch Company located on M-103 in Mottville township. The fire has affected approximately 15 acres and is being monitored by local and regional firefighters. The fire is expected to take several days to fully burn out but it is not expected to spread.

The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency has been in contact with the Kalamazoo District Office of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Air Quality Division regarding the potential health effects of the fire. At this time, the MDEQ has indicated that there is no concern for any health-related hazards or risks associated with the smoke. The smoke has increased the particulate matter count which can be an issue with people who suffer from asthma or similar pulmonary issues. Persons with **any** pulmonary sensitivity are urged to remain indoors in any area where the smoke is **visible** as well as limiting any outdoor activities in areas even remotely impacted by the smoke. **All** residents are cautioned to limit any prolonged outdoor activities in areas that are visibly smoky.

Public Health Officials ask residents to remain aware and to follow these tips for protecting themselves and their families:

- If you have asthma:
 - Be consistent about taking your medicines, as prescribed by your doctor
 - Limit your time out of doors in areas impacted by smoke
- All Residents:
 - If it looks quite smoky outside it is probably not the best time to go for a run or to have your children playing outdoors. If possible stay in doors with windows and doors closed.

For more information, please contact the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency (Three Rivers office) at 269-273-2161.