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Final Unified Command Site Bulletin: Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident Response – Update 7/11/16

MAYWOOD, CALIF. – The Unified Command for the Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident in Maywood, Los Angeles County, Calif., has completed residential cleanup operations of hazardous materials in the aftermath of the fire that began on June 14, 2016. All necessary cleanup in the residential and public areas has been completed, and all 43 evacuated residents have been notified that they can move home as of July 11, 2016. Five households remain temporarily relocated from the south side of E. 52nd Street, but their homes are safe for re-occupancy.

The Unified Command was comprised of representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Los Angeles County Fire Department Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD). With the facility's burn debris now stabilized and residents returned to their homes, the Unified Command has been deactivated.

While timing of cleanup work on the fire impacted facilities has not yet been determined, measures to protect the community from ash and debris have been completed. These measures include: creating a buffer zone between the burned debris and the residential yards, installing a fence with fabric to shield the neighboring properties, and applying a sealant and fabric cover over the burned area to prevent ash migration. Work on the facility will proceed after consultation with the facility owner and once a work plan has been approved. Some equipment may remain in the area in the interim.

The local Community Information Center for residents affected by the fire will remain open through July 13 to answer questions on health concerns, incident background, and the cleanup of homes.

Response by the Numbers (Updated 7/11/16)

- 43 households, consisting of 125 adults and 79 children, have been notified that they can move back home. Unified Command anticipates that all residents will be back in their homes by today, July 11.
- Five households (total of 22 people) remain temporarily relocated from the South side

of E. 52nd St., however their homes are safe for their return.

- All outdoor soil sampling has been completed. Soil sampling was conducted on 24 parcels, including seven parcels on the south side of E. 52nd Street. Over 50 samples of soil were analyzed.
- All outdoor cleanup has been completed on the 17 parcels requiring cleanup.
- Outdoor air sampling was conducted until July 8. 45 samples of outdoor air were analyzed.
- All indoor sampling has been completed. Indoor sampling was conducted on approximately 50 structures. Over 210 samples of indoor air and dust were analyzed.
- Eleven residences were identified as requiring indoor cleaning, and all have been cleaned up.
- More than 300 people from 24 federal, state, and local agencies participated in resident care and shelter operations, environmental assessment and property cleanup efforts.

With the residential phase of this response completed, information trailers will be removed from Fruitland and E 52nd Streets, allowing the roads to be open by Wednesday July 13. The Unified Command thanks the residents and industry in the area surrounding this incident for their patience and cooperation during this time.

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