

PBTT Fire Unified Command Update 9/10/2025

Coordinating agencies:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)
Warrick County Emergency Management Agency
Warrick County Health Department
Ohio Township Fire Department
Ohio Township Trustees

NEWBURGH, Ind. (Sept. 10, 2025) – Coordinating agencies have provided the following updates:

- Today, six EPA teams assessed and cleaned 24 residential properties and public spaces.
- No visible ash or debris was found at AMAX Park. The Warrick County Health Department in partnership with the Warrick County Commissioners announced the park was reopened.
- EPA began assessment and cleanup of Vann Park. Warrick County Commissioners announced that, as a precaution, Vann Park—including the pond and certain surrounding areas—will remain closed to the public until further notice, while the Warrick County Health Department and the Emergency Management Agency continue working with various agencies to gather information and determine when it is safe to reopen. Members of the public are asked not to enter Vann Park and are strictly prohibited from fishing in the pond.
- IDEM is coordinating with the PBTT facility owner. The facility owner has hired an environmental contractor and is cooperating with response efforts. IDEM will work with the contractor to begin property assessment, identify any potential environmental impacts, and determine appropriate remediation measures.
- IDEM is in contact with Public Water System operators in the area. No drinking water supplies have been affected by the fire.
- Warrick County EMA is actively working with local, state, and federal partners to provide enhanced resources and logistical support for the incident command.

Frequently Asked Questions

Should I change my HVAC filter?

It is standard practice to replace your air filters monthly. If your filter is dirty it can be discarded into household trash. It is standard hygiene is to wash your hands after handling dirty or dusty filters.

What is being done by responders to address the problem?

IDEM is overseeing the potentially responsible party's contractor for all on-site cleanup. EPA is coordinating the assessment of off-site impacts, including: ash at residential, commercial, religious and other properties; and surface waters. All water runoff during the fire was collected in a storm water pond at the Vann Road Park property.

I think there is fire ash debris on my property. What should I do or not do?

If you have ash on your property and want an assessment by EPA, please report this to EPA. Send your name, address and phone number to R5_PIO@epa.gov so we can schedule a debris assessment.

There is fire ash debris in my pool. Do I need to add chemicals or drain it?

Standard pool water circulation filters and manual pool nets will capture and remove large particles. Standard pool water maintenance includes testing for pH and adding pool water chemicals to adjust pH. Ash from fires may have alkaline properties (pH greater than 7). EPA does not anticipate a pool will have received enough ash from the PBTT fire to alter pool water pH; however, standard pool test strips would detect any changes in pH.

Is air quality affected?

The fire was extinguished on September 7, 2025, at 4:00 AM. Several local and state agencies conducted air monitoring during the active fire. EPA conducted air monitoring following the fire, to be prepared if the fire were to reignite. EPA air monitoring did not detect unsafe levels of contamination in air.

I have photos/video of ash on my property. Who should I send those to?

If you have photos or videos of ash on your property you can share them with R5_PIO@epa.gov. Please provide your name, address and phone number.

I collected samples from my yard that might help the responders. Who should I give them to?

We appreciate your willingness to help the fire. If you collected ash from your property, please contact R5_PIO@epa.gov with a description and photo. EPA will contact you with more information on its debris assessment program.

Are you accepting solicitations for environmental assessment or cleanup services?

EPA uses pre-established contracts for assessment and cleanup. The agency is not accepting solicitations for this response.

Who can I talk to regarding health questions?

Please contact your primary health care provider with any medical questions. The Warrick County Health Department can answer public health-related questions at 812-897-6105.

Is the fire ash harmful to the environment?

Generally, ash is alkaline (pH above 7) and may contain traces of metals, chemicals, or elements. EPA is conducting ash assessments on properties to determine if there are specific hazards of the ash. Samples of the ash are being analyzed. Responding agencies will share more information as it is available.

If you have health concerns, please reach out to your medical provider or Warrick County Health Department at 812-897-6105.

EPA has a website to report ash debris: response.epa.gov/pbttincfirerresponse.

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