**Warrick County Commissioners**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
Date: Monday, September 15, 2025

**Contact:**
Warrick County Health Department
Phone: 812-897-6105

[www.warrickcounty.gov](http://www.warrickcounty.gov)

Click link **Daily Updates from EPA on Chemical Fire and to Report Ash on your Property**

**Warrick County Commissioners Provide Update on Vann Park**

The Warrick County Commissioners, in coordination with the Warrick County Health Department and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), are providing the following update regarding ash and debris cleanup in the community:

**Vann Road Park Update**

* The EPA as completed all outdoor hard surfaces cleaning within Vann Road Park. This includes everything including but not limited to ballfields, park benches, picnic tables, pickleball courts, and playgrounds.
* A lawn vacuum was used to remove larger debris from ball fields and walking paths. However, small fine particles and some larger debris remain in gravel areas, playing fields and other locations as the equipment cannot clear all materials.
* Vann Park will reopen Tuesday. September 16, 2025.
* The pond at Vann Road Park REMAINS CLOSED and will continue to be closed for the next few days while IDEM and DNR completes clean up and makes sure is safe for fishing.
* **Ash pH Levels:** Preliminary testing shows that the ash’s pH is significantly lower than originally reported and is within a safe range.
* **Composition of Ash:** Early laboratory analysis indicates the presence of byproducts from metal combustion, including salts and magnesium oxides. Field screenings have measured some ash samples at a pH range of 7 to 12. For context, lye soap can have a pH of up to 11. While most ash poses minimal risk, individuals with sensitive skin may experience irritation from smaller exposures, and more concentrated contact could cause burns.
* **Property Cleanup:** Residents may now begin cleaning ash from their property.
* **Recommended Methods for Property Cleanup:** Vinegar-based cleaning solutions and/or water are recommended, particularly for larger areas. Although the ash is alkaline, it is not as caustic as initially believed. As a general precaution—and especially for those with sensitive skin—residents should wear gloves while cleaning.
* **Resources and Assistance:** Additional information, including EPA Frequently Asked Questions, is available through the link posted on the Warrick County Government website [www.warrickcounty.gov](http://www.warrickcounty.gov) - click link Daily Update from EPA on Chemical Fire and to Report Ash on your Property. Residents may also call the Health Department directly at **812-897-6105** or Warrick County Commissioners at **812-897-6120** for guidance.
* **Support for Affected Residents:** Individuals living in the shelter-in-place area who encounter ash debris and need assistance obtaining cleaning supplies should contact the Health Department at 8128-97-6105.
* Individuals living in the shelter-in-place area requiring assistance in obtaining cleaning supplies should contact the Health Department at 812-897-615 or the Commissioner’s Office at 812-897-6120 and Warrick County EMA will provide assistance.
* Cleaning supplies will be available on **Tuesday, September 16, 2025** at the Warrick County Courthouse, 107 W Locust Street, Boonville, IN.

**The Warrick County Commissioners thank the community for their continued patience and cooperation as agencies work together to ensure public safety.**