



Winnebago County

Health Department

NEWS RELEASE

August 1, 2022

Contact: Katherine O'Toole, Director of Communications/PIO, 815-720-4213

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Impact Survey Part 2 on Chemtool Fire Now Available for Public to Complete

WINNEBAGO COUNTY – The Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD), in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR), has issued a follow-up survey to the public to assess the impact on the community's health one year after the Chemtool Fire.

"Our federal and state health partners have returned to our community to conduct this follow-up survey, the Health Impact Survey Part 2," said Dr. Sandra Martell, Public Health Administrator for the Winnebago County Health Department. "I am appreciative that residents of Rockton and others impacted by the Chemtool Fire have the opportunity to share the impact the Chemtool Fire has had on them one year later in a way that helps identify any potential health concerns that may have arisen over that time period."

It is important to note that the issuance of this survey does not mean there are any ongoing health effects from the event, but is a way to assess and identify any health concerns.

Complete the Health Impact Survey Part 2 online at www.wchd.org/fire by August 8, 2022.

Participant will be asked questions about:

- Where you were during the event or how you might have been exposed, and
- If you are experiencing any new or worsening symptoms, and
- If you received care or treatment

CDC/ATSDR will also be going door-to-door in Rockton from August 1 through August 8 from 10 am to 7 pm for residents to provide additional input.

Taking part in this survey is voluntary and participants can decline to answer any questions in the survey. Declining to participate in the survey does NOT affect any government benefits you may receive.

Results of the initial Health Impact Survey (Part 1) on the Chemtool Fire were provided to the public via livestream on September 1, 2021 and can be viewed online at the www.wchd.org/fire. The slides to the presentation can also be downloaded.

###