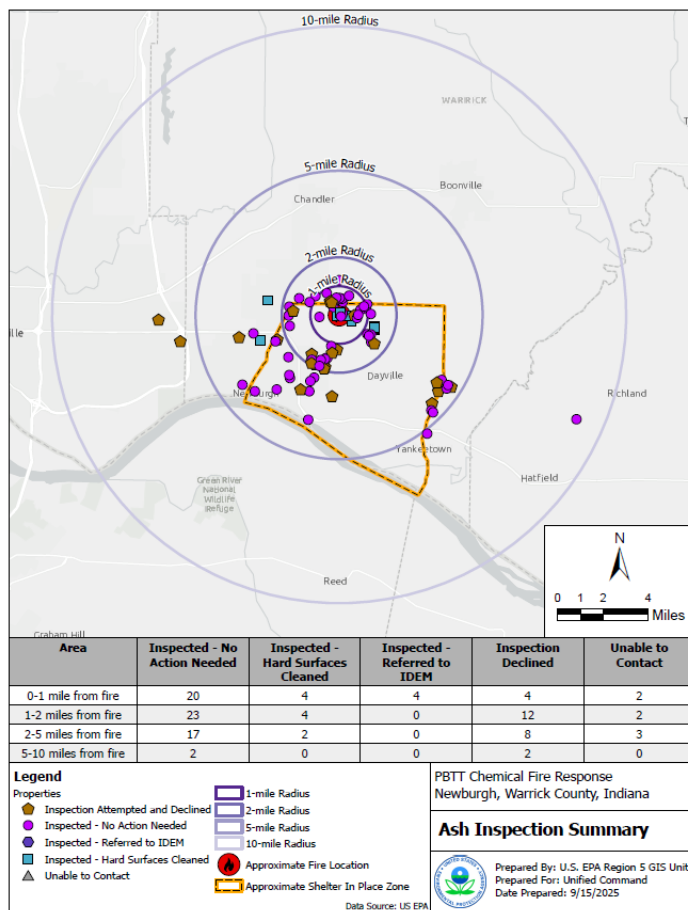


PBTT Fire Unified Command Update 09/15/2025

NEWBURGH, Ind. (Sept. 15, 2025) – Coordinating agencies have provided the following updates:

- EPA has completed its cleanup activities and the cooperating agencies have agreed that a unified command is no longer necessary. IDEM will continue to oversee the cleanup on the PBTT property and EPA will provide support as requested. If residents see remaining ash, please contact the Warrick County Health Department.
- During the response, EPA received 109 requests to assess fire ash debris at properties: 80 were inspected for ash debris with 10 properties requiring cleanup. In addition, 29 property owners reported ash and either declined to be assessed or did not provide enough information. Below is a map of EPA’s ash debris inspection locations. Details will also be included in a final summary report.



- EPA deferred cleanup of four commercial properties within the “grass mowing advisory area” to PBTT for cleanup. IDEM will also oversee this cleanup
- EPA assessed and cleaned Vann Park. Following an inspection with Warrick County officials, the Warrick County Commissioners will reopen the park Tuesday, September 16. Individuals living in the area designated for shelter-in-place and those with ash debris are eligible to receive cleaning supplies available starting Tuesday morning at the Courthouse, 107 W Locust, Boonville.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the fire ash harmful to the environment?

The ash from the fire is not expected to be very harmful to the environment. It can increase particulate matter in the air in small, specific areas if it is kicked up during activities like mowing. It's recommended to avoid inhaling the ash. Check the *Agencies Mowing Advisory Area* on the EPA webpage. Based on data collected so far, the ash itself is alkaline (pH

around 10.5) and mostly made up of the metals magnesium, iron and calcium. Early data indicates that the ash isn't as harsh or alkaline as the first tests suggested. These metals can be found in soil and are naturally occurring. When cleaning (or other activities that stir up ash) the alkalinity may be irritating for those with sensitive skin, so it is recommended to wear long sleeves/pants. EPA examined ash on properties and sent samples to a laboratory to identify specific dangers posed by the ash. Responding agencies will share more information as it becomes available.

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

For more information on the response, visit EPA's website: response.epa.gov/pbttincfirerresponse.

###