

Indigenous Services Canada Ontario
Region - 2024 Ontario Joint Gathering
November 5, 2024

Aamjiwnaang First Nation Event Specific
Evacuation Plan – INEOS Styrolution Benzene
Removal Process

Background – High Benzene Levels Detected



April 18, 2024 – high benzene levels were detected at an air monitor located adjacent to the Aamjiwnaang Administration Office.



High benzene levels prompted the closure of the Administration Office and other offices in the area.



The offices remained closed for approximately 3 business days due to the high levels

Community Action



Councilor Janelle Nahmabin, Councilor CJ Smith-White and Environment Worker Lynn Rosales met with and lobbied the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault while in Ottawa attending the United Nations Plastic Treaty Negotiations, to urge the federal government act on the high benzene levels that has plagued Aamjiwnaang First Nation for years.

May 8, 2024, the Provincial Government issued Provincial Orders to INEOS Styrolution to take care of the ongoing Benzene issue at their site.

Later in May 2024, the Federal Government issued their own Orders to INEOS and surrounding Facilities to take care of all Benzene issues regarding emissions and storage.

Aamjiwnaang Emergency Control Group decided the benzene exposure level for evacuation will be 27 ug/m³. The Provincial exposure benchmark for benzene is 90 ug/m³ over a 1-hour limit. The Control Group felt that that level was too high for our members and that is how it was decided on 27 ug/m³.

Aamjiwnaang Emergency Control Group met and made the decision to task the Emergency Management Planner to develop an Event Specific Evacuation Plan. The plan is needed for when INEOS Styrolution will be conducting their benzene removal from their site onto rail cars, marine shipping and pipeline.

Reason for the Event Specific Evacuation Plan, INEOS shared emissions modelling during the benzene removal process and it showed that emissions could potentially reach over 600 ug/m³. Dependent on the wind and weather on the day of the removal process, there was a possibility of high benzene levels reaching within Aamjiwnaang territory.

Event Specific Evacuation Plan

****NOTE** - Evacuation will occur when the Benzene reading reaches 27 ug/m3**

When can an evacuation be initiated/called?

Anyone within the Aamjiwnaang Emergency Control Group can initiate the process of evacuation by notifying Janelle Nahmabin, Acting Chair of Council, Harrison Plain, Band Operations Manager and Norman Joseph, Emergency Management Planner. Janelle Nahmabin along with Councilors are the only people with the authority to call an evacuation. Once an evacuation is called, Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) (416) 326-8525 and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) (519) 751-6462, will be contacted regarding the evacuation.

The evacuation process will start with Zone 1, 2, 3 & 6 being evacuated the day/night before the event is started and then other zones will be evacuated when needed.

2 Councilors/volunteers will be needed to issue evacuation notices (in person) to each household in the zones that are pre-emptively evacuated.

*The Daycare and school will close and evacuate if benzene readings reach 27 ug/m3 in Zone 7.

*Transportation will be provided for those that don't own a vehicle or cannot drive.

See below for Zones and map.

Event Specific Evacuation Plan – cont'd

Muster Point – Ashley Jackson & 2 Councilors – For Zones 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12

- For those that are advised to evacuate their homes, will be asked to attend the Community Centre or the Conference Room at the local hotel where Aamjiwnaang will be set up (location will be provided) to check in and wait for further instructions. At this point, the evacuees will be informed as to which local hotel they will attend to stay in for the duration of the evacuation. The hotel needs to be notified that rooms will be needed for 3 days minimum.
- *Zones 1, 2, 3 & 6 will pre-register for an early evacuation that will take place the night before the start of the INEOS process. A pre-evacuation form will be provided to those in these zones.

Reception of Evacuees – Rachael Simon & 2 Councilors

- Rachael Simon along with 2 Councilors will receive those who have been evacuated at the Community Centre. For those that have been evacuated will receive instructions as to what local hotel to attend for the duration of the evacuation.
- 2 Councilors will need to attend the local hotel to receive those that have been evacuated. Once the evacuees have been registered and into their rooms, the reception team will notify Ashley and Rachael as to who registered and received rooms for documentation purposes.

Event Specific Evacuation Plan – cont'd

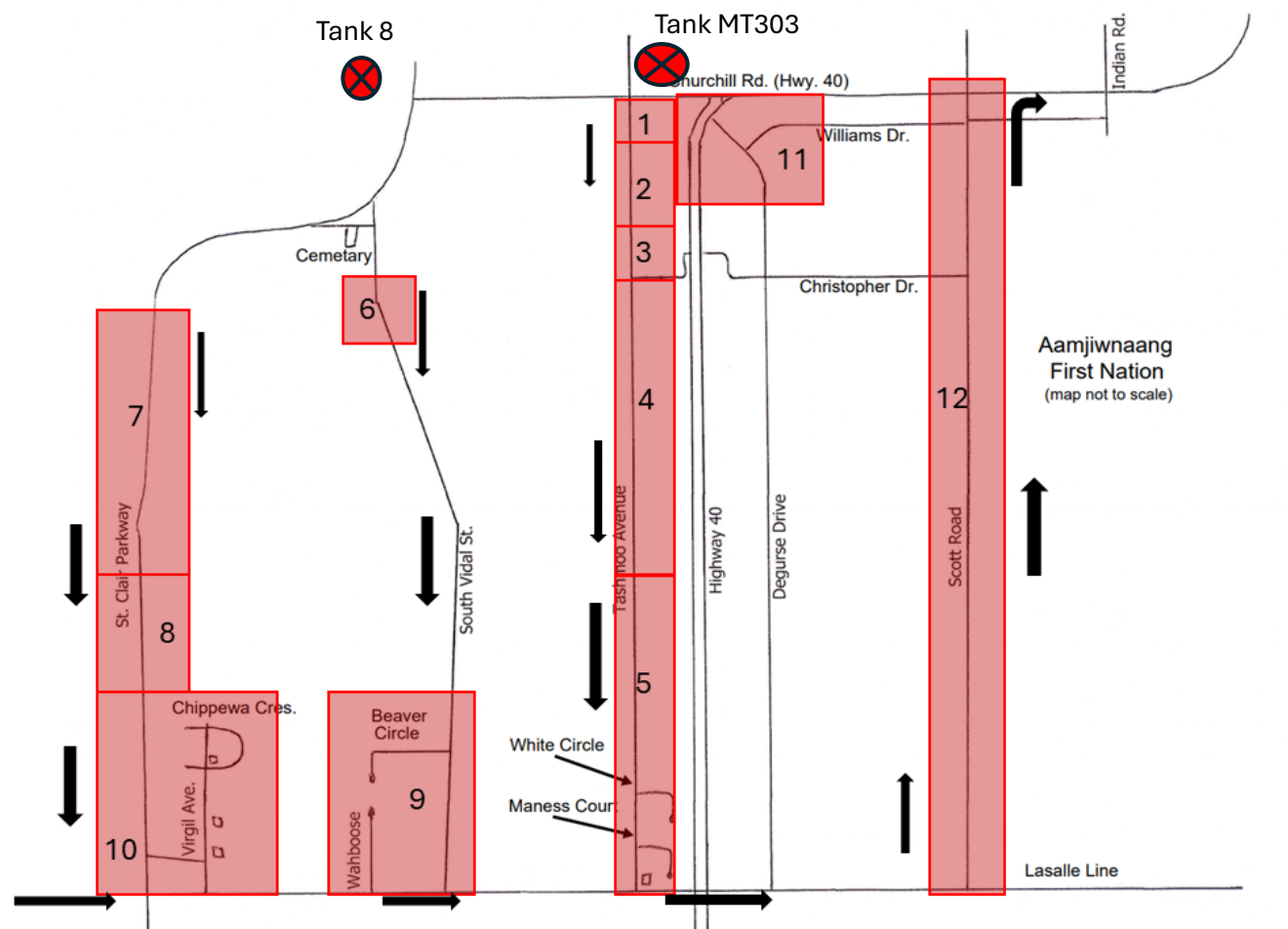
Road Closures – Public Works

- Road closure signs will be erected, starting with a sign at the intersection of Tashmoo Ave. and Churchill Line. The closure of Tashmoo Ave. will be in consultation with the City of Sarnia. The next sign will be posted at the beginning of Zone 2 and so on, depending on the rate of movement of the Benzene plume.

Ending Evacuation – Chair of Council

- Depending on the monitor numbers and/or the ending of the process indicated from INEOS, The Chair of Council can call an end to the evacuation order. Ending the evacuation order will depend on when the end of the INEOS event is declared, and the last reading is under 27 ug/m³ for a period of 24 hours. Always ensure that it is safe for community members to return to their homes before ending the evacuation order.
- Follow up testing of Administration Buildings could be conducted by Aamjiwnaang Consultants (Vertex).

Event Specific Evacuation Plan – cont'd



Evacuation Commencement

On October 1, 2024, people in Zones 1, 2,3 and 6 were evacuated to 2 local hotels in Point Edward, Ontario.

- With this pre-evacuation, there were a total of approximately 50 people scheduled for evacuation.

It was later decided for the rest of the Community, if they did not feel comfortable or safe staying at their home while the removal process was ongoing, they had the option to evacuate as well.

- The total of people for evacuation was 210.
- There were 2 hotels utilized in the evacuation.

ISN Maskwa was brought in to provide support during all evacuation procedures. They also provided security at the hotels and in the Community during this event. Transportation to and from the Community, as well as to local businesses were provided to members of the community.

On October 6, 2024, all evacuees were allowed to return home.

- ISN Maskwa supported in repatriating these people returning home by providing transportation. They also assisted in clearing all hotel rooms and collecting personal items that may have been left behind.

On October 7, 2024, a wrap-up meeting was held with Aamjiwnaang Emergency Control Group and ISN Maskwa to review the evacuation

