

Guidance for Animals Impacted by the LaSalle Chemical Fire

Wash off any visible debris -use lots of warm water and mild liquid dishwashing detergent (such as Dawn; NOT dishwasher detergent). Wear gloves. Steps to wash animals:

1. Rinse well with warm water working from the head, down back, along the tail, and finally the chest, stomach, legs, and feet.
2. Work soap into hair/feathers in the same pattern. Ensure soap reaches the skin. Clean out ears with water or ear cleaning solution if needed. If eyes have debris, flush with water or sterile saline.
3. Rinse with plain warm water in the same pattern as rinsing and washing.
4. Allow the animal to shake off excess water and repeat steps 1-3 as needed until all contaminants are removed. Dry with clean towels if unable to air dry.
5. Cold outdoor temperatures may require keeping the animal indoors, in a heated area, until fully dry.

Limit further skin exposure

- Bring livestock into shelter if their pasture/area is contaminated
- Wipe off your pet's paws and coat when they return from outside
- Monitor for skin irritation

Limit respiratory exposure

- While the chemical is no longer airborne, animals may still inhale it from the ground if it remains contaminated. Limit this behavior if possible.
- Keep inside if possible or monitor for respiratory signs (wheezing, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath)
- Animals with underlying respiratory conditions may have worsening symptoms
- Birds may be at higher risk for respiratory irritation; poultry should be brought into covered housing if possible

Do not give animals contaminated feed or water

- Oral or intestinal irritation, while unlikely, could occur
- Monitor for vomiting/diarrhea or loss of appetite

If you observe any skin irritation, difficulty breathing, or vomiting/diarrhea you should contact your veterinarian as soon as possible

This guidance is recommended if you observe contamination of your property from the Carus chemical fire and continued until the contamination has been removed. **All Community Members who have contaminated property are directed to call the Carus hotline at 815-224-6662.**

*Developed in collaboration with the ASPCA
Animal Poison Control Center

