

07 March 2018; 1400h

Health advice for the public

Fire at Sims Pacific Metals Auckland, 263 James Fletcher Drive, Otahuhu

Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) has the following advice for the public following the outbreak of a fire this morning at Sims Pacific Metals, 263 James Fletcher Drive, Otahuhu. This incident is being attended by Fire and Emergency NZ and is expected to continue smouldering until Thursday midday at least. Wind direction is light and changeable so locals may smell smoke at different times.

The range of materials involved in this fire is not yet known, however it is likely that scrap metal, car parts, petrol, oil and other possible pollutants are involved. ARPHS advises the public in surrounding areas to take precautionary measures to prevent breathing in smoke.

Households in the affected area, down-wind of the fire, should close windows, doors and ventilation systems. Anyone who remains in the vicinity is advised to keep out of the smoke.

People who smoke, the elderly, children, and those with heart disease, asthma or other lung conditions are at greatest risk of harm from smoke inhalation and should avoid exposure.

If you experience any acute effects from the fire such as difficulties breathing, wheeze, cough or chest pain then you should seek assistance from your primary health provider or **call Healthline on 0800 611 116 for free 24 hour health advice.**

In healthy people, most symptoms disappear soon after exposure to smoke ends, and cause no long-term health problems.

Kind regards



Dr Denise Barnfather

Medical Officer of Health