Chad Pritchard

Hello, I greatly appreciate that the underground fire was finally smothered with wet clay. I am still very concerned that Ecology and the Clean Air Board considered the smoke to be okay based solely on the particulate (PM) count. I visited the site with CSS folks and there were paint cans, plastic and likely a number of other types of materials that have vinyl chloride or other similar toxic materials. The smoke was toxic, regardless of the PM count. During the peak of burning the City was in an atmospheric inversion which pinned all of these toxins in the air that we breathed. Returning home from a City Council meeting, the entire city stank of burning plastic because the Fire District (who we all love!) had put over 10,000 gallons of water on the fire and forced air deeper into the underground burning dump.

A couple of requests:

1) Please do not spray copious amounts of water on the fire when you are cleaning it up, as this can produce runoff and take even more toxic material into West Medical Lake.

2) Please have DSHS cleanup all unregulated landfills and dumps on their property so that this doesn't happen again. There is also no need to keep dumps along a fishing lake to potentially continue to leach toxins into the lake.

We appreciate the efforts of CSS and Fire District 3 associated with capping the burning landfill that is in the City of Medical Lake to minimize toxic smoke from inundating the City.

Thank you! Chad