Environmental Testing for Fort McMurray Re-entry

Soot / Ash Analysis Packages

Air Analysis Packages

As Fort McMurray residents and business owners begin to re-occupy buildings, exposure to Contaminants of Potential Concern (COPCs) is being closely monitored and evaluated by Alberta Environment. Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health has recommended that neighborhoods are safe for re-entry, with the exception of Waterways, Abasand and Beacon Hill. We recognize the need for additional testing of ambient air quality, with specific concern for ash and/or soot presence, as well as soil quality, to confirm buildings and the surroundings are safe for re-entry. Details of Alberta Environments monitoring program and regular updates can be found using this link: http://www.alberta.ca/environmental-monitoring-fort-mcmurray.cfm

Our Fort McMurray laboratory re-opened on June 13th and is available to support your analysis requirements. We have assembled key analysis packages for ambient air, dust, soil and debris analysis, which are available for rush and emergency turnaround time. Should the monitoring program require specific on-site testing, Maxxam has a mobile laboratory unit on stand-by and ready to be deployed. In addition to these packages, Maxxam provides a complete suite of environmental testing to support your site assessment, remediation and industrial hygiene analysis requirements.

Soot/Ash Analysis Packages

Soot/Ash Analysis Package

Samples are collected using Maxxam supplied Ghost Wipes over a defined surface area (often 10cm^2) and analyzed in accordance with reference method ASTM 6602 by Polarized Light Microscopy/Transmission Electron Microscopy. The composition of the material is reported (char, carbon black, soot, ash) for cleaning and exposure assessment.

Metals in Surface Particulate Package

Ash tested by Alberta Environment has been reported to have elevated heavy metals including zinc, copper and arsenic. Maxxam's ICP-MS testing package for heavy metals provides a comprehensive scan of the contaminants of concern in surface particulate matter.

Ghost wipes are used to swab the surface of the sampling location over a defined surface area and results expressed as µg/swab.

Maxxam is the Canadian market leader in analytical services and solutions to the energy, environmental, food and DNA industries and a member of the Bureau Veritas Group of companies – a world leader in testing. Maxxam is the largest environmental testing network in Western Canada and across Canada with expertise in analytical services supporting Site Assessment/Remediation, Industrial Hygiene and Oil and Gas sectors.

For additional information on our testing capabilities not listed here or to arrange a project, please contact our Fort McMurray team at FortMac@maxxam.ca or by contacting our Fort McMurray laboratory at 780-791-9170.

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) in Surface Particulate Package

PAHs are a class of 16 regulated compounds, with several of them being classified as probable human carcinogens. PAHs are products of incomplete combustion and as such are COPC in the Fort McMurray area. Maxxam's PAH testing package in surface materials employs the use of a hexane swab over a defined area, with analysis conducted by GC/MS and results reported as µg/swab.

Air Analysis Packages

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in Air Package
Maxxam supplies 6L or 1.67L SUMMA canisters for easy collection of representative air quality samples, for the analysis of BTEX compounds and other VOCs in accordance with reference method EPA TO15. Samples collected may be discrete (grab) or composite (continuous time period of 8 or 24hrs.)

PAHs in Air Package
Representative air samples are collected using personal sampling pumps over a set time period using XAD sorbent tubes. Analysis of regulated PAHs is conducted by GC/MS and results reported in µg/m3 for comparison to occupation exposure limits.

Maxxam's Fort McMurray is pleased to support your local projects by offering local analysis for specific tests, free shipping and local logistics and containers. Please contact Maxxam for pricing and to discuss your sampling project.