

ADEM Moody Fire Highlights

- Moody Fire Department responded to, but was unable to extinguish, an underground fire at a vegetative waste disposal site outside of the city.
- ADEM, Alabama Forestry Commission and St. Clair County EMA consulted with Moody Fire Department about the fire.
- ADEM reviewed legal authority required to take action on the fire.
- St. Clair County Commission acknowledged responsibility for putting out fire.
- ADEM connected St. Clair County Commission with companies who have expertise in extinguishing underground fires.
- St. Clair County lacked legal authority to do or pay for work on private property and lacked fiscal resources to hire a contractor to extinguish the fire.
- St. Clair County declared state of emergency.
- St. Clair County evaluated proposals for extinguishing the fire, but determined it lacked expertise to choose best approach.
- ADEM requested EPA to perform air monitoring at and near site of fire, to identify impacts to the community, and to facilitate EPA becoming involved in extinguishing the fire.
- After reviewing air monitoring data, ADEM requested EPA take the lead in extinguishing the fire because of their experience in dealing with underground fires.
- Governor Ivey declared limited state of emergency to assist St. Clair County Commission.
- EPA agreed to provide its contractor to extinguish the fire.
- Work has begun to extinguish the fire. This method involves using heavy equipment to expose the burning material then smothering with soil.
- The contractor estimates it will require approximately a month to extinguish the fire. Water Quality monitoring in nearby water sources is being performed.