

Practical Health and Safety Solutions

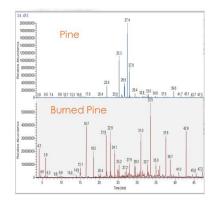
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Post-Fire Indoor Air Quality Testing

As part of the clean-up process after a fire, air testing is performed to look for any residual presence of smoke or fire. Depending on the types of materials consumed in the fire, there are a number of different indicators of fire and smoke residue. Thus, testing is performed for an assortment of fire indicators including:

- Post-Fire VOCs (Volatile Organic Compound)
- Airborne Post-Fire Particulate
- Surface Post-Fire Particulate



VOC Testing

VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) testing looks at different airborne gases. Strong and common fire indicators are referred to as primary indicators. Other substances with a less causal link to fires are also included in the analysis, and are referred to as secondary indicators.

To conclude that fire residue is present, at least one primary indicator must be detected. The presence of secondary indicators are used to support the findings of the primary indicators.

Post-Fire Particulate

Post-fire remnants fall into 3 broad categories: soot, char and ash. The relative distribution of these three components vary significantly with the nature, extent, and temperature of the fire but, all three of these compounds will be detectable in particle ID samples. Both air and surface samples will be taken and analysed for a screen of particulate that includes soot, char and ash.

Airborne Post-Fire Particulate Results

Type of Post Fire	Particle Count / m ³	
Particle	Sample Result	Normal Range
Aciniform-like Soot	120	0-100
Ash and Char-like Soot	67	0-100