

Dear parents and staff,

As you may have seen, the Bridgeton and West Lake landfills, located northwest of the I-70 and I-270 interchange, have been in the news lately after St. Louis County released a copy of a 2014 emergency response plan drafted to address any crises that may arise at these sites.

For the last few years we have actively worked with community members along with local, state and federal leaders to advocate for a solution that keeps our St. Louis metropolitan community safe from any negative environmental impact. In February 2014, we formally requested that the West Lake Landfill be transferred from the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) in order for the Army Corps to oversee clean up at the site.

We have also worked with local first responders and the St. Louis County Office of Emergency Management to be prepared should a crisis occur. If a hazardous materials incident from the landfill or from an accident in the community were to occur there are two options available for a response, evacuation or shelter in place. This is included in each of our schools' individual emergency procedures guides. Sheltering in place involves staying inside the building where you currently are and shutting down air intakes where possible to limit exposure to outside air. Pattonville would follow the directions given by first responders on which option to use based on their expertise and facts known at the time. We would use our communication tools in place, including our automated phone calling system, to inform parents about our course of action and provide directions.

We remain frustrated with the situation at the landfill. This impacts not only our community, but the entire St. Louis region. As superintendent and as a Bridgeton resident, I will continue to be involved with community leaders, including local officials and first responders, who are fighting for a safe solution to the landfill issue. I appreciate their efforts, along with federal and state officials and legislators, to identify and put in place solution(s) that ensure the safety and well-being of our region. Please be assured that we will continue to monitor the situation and take appropriate steps to ensure the continued safety and well-being of our students, our schools and our community.

Sincerely,

Mike Fulton  
Superintendent  
Pattonville School District