

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
AIR QUALITY DIVISION  
ACTIVITY REPORT: Complaint Investigation

U1308031248913

FACILITY: RJ Torching - Heavy Metal Scrap		SRN / ID: U13080312
LOCATION: 989 N. Raymond Rd., Battle Creek		DISTRICT: Kalamazoo
CITY: Battle Creek		COUNTY: CALHOUN
CONTACT:		ACTIVITY DATE: 05/08/2019
STAFF: Amanda Chapel	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Non Compliance	SOURCE CLASS:
SUBJECT:		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On Wednesday May 8, 2019, Air Quality Division (AQDs) Amanda Chapel and Chance Collins (staff) went to RJ Torching located at 989 Raymond Road North, Battle Creek Michigan 49014 to observe possible open burning activity on site. A verbal complaint had been received the previous week about colored smoke which could be seen daily from the site. Staff arrived on site approximately 11:30am and drove past the site heading north on Raymond Road. Colored smoke could be seen rising from the site. Staff turned around and headed back south on Raymond Road and then right onto W Jameson Ave to observe the onsite activity from the road.

Staff parked along the road on W Jameson Ave and observed the following from about 11:30 am to 11:50 am. Staff observed two employees torch cutting a pile of material as another employee operated a large excavator behind them with a magnet where the bucket would normally be. Staff observed the two employees torch cut the first pile of material for about 10 minutes. The two employees then abandoned the first pile of cut material to cut another pile of material located behind the first. The employees allowed the first pile of material continue to burn, with visible flames, as they torch cut the material in the second pile. There did not appear to be any attempt to quench the flames from the first pile. A photo is included demonstrating this. Additional photos are included as a Microsoft Word Document attachment. Staff continued to observe the ongoing torch cutting operation of the second pile, with no attempt to put out the flames from the first pile, for a few more minutes and left the roadside at about 11:51am.

The department considers the continued burning of material after torch cutting operations have ceased, open burning, which is a violation of Act 451, Rule 310. A violation notice will be sent.