

**Mesa Del Sol's Most Recent Chemical Fire**  
*Holding Industry Accountable in District 6*

**Tuesday August 8, 2023**

A giant plastic fire took place on Sunday, August 6th in Mesa Del Sol, part of District 6. Reports indicate that the fire was started by an employee's car at a facility that recycles and manufactures plastic pipes. The facility soon caught fire, and authorities say that plastic pollutants will stay in the air for days.

Plastic pollutants have a number of health risks, including respiratory problems, irritation of the lungs and nose, and in severe cases, cancer. Plastic pollutants are specifically harmful to people with preexisting respiratory conditions such as asthma and emphysema.

Our most vulnerable populations, including the homeless, are disproportionately impacted by mistakes like these. Additionally, people who work outside such as construction workers, public safety officers, and others that do manual labor outside are impacted by air quality changes. This instance is an unfortunate oversight that may have caused harm to hundreds of people.

Environmental health equity is one of the biggest issues that our community faces every day. District 6 has many areas of extreme heat due to highly concentrated buildings and asphalt. We have less shade, more asphalt, and less greenery than many other areas of Albuquerque. The people most impacted by these "urban heat islands" are those that do not have the resources to protect themselves from the heat.

As your next City Councilor, I will protect people who live and work outside. I will urge corporations to implement a plan in the event of a fire and better steps for prevention. We need to take cumulative impacts into account when companies are applying for permits on our land. I will have community conversations to ensure that we have a say in industry decisions that will impact the health of our most vulnerable residents. I will advocate for more greenspace initiatives in District 6, as well as greater education about environmental health inequities in our community.

Jeff Hoehn

