

MOH wants residents to allow Christie Pits spraying

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Toronto's Medical Officer of Health is urging residents to stop preventing the city from spraying for pests at a temporary dump site set up at Christie Pits park.

"I am issuing an appeal to residents who are concerned about the garbage to cooperate with city officials and to ensure access to these sites by the pest control operator," said Dr. David McKeown in a statement today.

McKeown went to the Christie Pits site today to assess the situation.

"I am satisfied that the city is taking the necessary precautions to ensure pesticides are applied in a way that minimizes any risk to public health," he added.

A standoff is brewing between Friends of Christie Pits, a local group of activists opposed to the temporary drop-off, and the city. The group has been blocking the pest management firm Orkin and city management from gaining access to the dump site to apply pesticides and to remove standing water.

Govind Rao, a spokesperson for the group, said today that pesticides could leak from the site and pose a threat to animals or humans.

His group wants the site shut down and says the city's failure to spray violates rules laid down by the Ministry of the Environment.

A ministry spokesperson said that there's been no violation and that officials are monitoring the situation.