

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Cameron Haller, Chief of Emergency Services

Tipp City Fire & EMS

(937) 667-9199 or Email: hallerc@tippcity.net

On 03-23-2023 at 9:48 PM, Tipp City Fire & Emergency Services (TCFES) responded to 4200 S. County Road 25A, for a report of three people with chemical burns. Upon arrival, crews found three victims with inhalation injuries from a chemical reaction. The affected area within the building was isolated in a fifty-foot radius.

The priority of the on scene personnel is life safety. Three people were removed from the affected area and treated. All three had chemical inhalation symptoms and one minor chemical burn on one patient. Decontamination complete on all three patients. All patients were stable. Troy Medic 11 transported one patient and Tipp City Medic 31 transported the other two patients. The patients are on site contractors, not Meijer employees.

The Miami County Hazardous Material Team Chief was contacted at 10:00 PM. The team was activated and responded to the scene. Tipp City on scene personnel were able to confirm that toilet bowl cleaner and bleach containers were compromised in the packing process. The two chemicals then mixed. The mixture of the two gases creates chlorine gas. Operations at the facility were stopped. The haz-mat team collected information, donned the appropriate personal protective equipment and made entry. The goal of the entry team was to contain and collect the product in place. The situation was contained at 2:09 AM on 3-24-23.

The Miami County Haz Mat Team is comprised of first responders throughout all of Miami County that volunteer their time to serve their home department and the team. Multiple departments were represented at the incident. The team is also supported by the Miami County EMA office. TCFES is grateful for the response and abilities of the team

Troy Medic 11 responded to an additional medical emergency at 12:27 AM, while crews were still working at Meijer. Mutual aid from Troy, West Milton FD, Union Township EMS, Elizabeth Township and Bethel all responded and performed well.

The cause of the incident is unintentional. The chemicals mixed due to their containers being punctured in the automated packing process. The toilet bowl cleaner was damaged first and then

then the bleach container was damaged causing the chemicals to mix. The personnel that attempted to clean the spill became the patients. TCFES is not clear on contractor's use of PPE during the initial clean up. Once notified, Asset Protection personnel at the factory initiated an evacuation of all personnel and assisted emergency personnel.

No injuries or illness reported at the time of the incident by emergency personnel.

Crews were on the scene for approximately 5 hours.