

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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On 04-2-2023 at 6:26 AM, Tipp City Fire & Emergency Services (TCFES) responded to 4200 S. County Road 25A, for a report of one employee people with respiratory issues. The building involved is identified as the creamery. Upon arrival, crews found one victim with inhalation injuries from a chemical reaction. The affected area and building was evacuated.

The priority of the on scene personnel is life safety. The employee removed himself from the affected area and was transported to a local hospital. He had chemical inhalation symptoms. Decontamination completed on the patient. He was stable. Tipp City Medic 31 transported the other patient. The patients is a Meijer employee. He was treated and released.

The Miami County Hazardous Material Team Chief was contacted and the team was activated and responded to the scene. Tipp City on scene personnel were able to confirm that an acid solution and a caustic solution used as cleaners were introduced into the same line without rinsing the lines. The mixture of the two gases created an unspecified toxic gas. Operations at the facility were stopped. Tipp City personnel had the space ventilated and flushed with copious amounts of water.

The haz-mat team collected information, donned the appropriate personal protective equipment, monitoring equipment and made entry. The goal of the entry team was to ascertain that the air in the affected area had returned to normal atmospheric conditions. The entry team confirmed that the atmosphere was safe. The entry team was decontaminated. The situation was contained around 10:45 AM on 4-2-23. Meijer employees could safely re-enter the building.

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

Mutual aid from Troy and multiple personnel form various departments responded and performed well.

The cause of the incident is unintentional. The chemicals mixed due to an error in normal processes. The employee recognized the hazardous situation immediately. Once notified, Asset Protection personnel, creamery personnel, and facilities personnel all assisted emergency personnel. Meijer personnel assisted the Haz Mat Team with the decontamination process of entry personnel.

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

Crews were on the scene for approximately 4 hours.