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Hazardous Materials Incident in Kent

Kent, Wash. - August 6, 2015- Late last night (8/5/15) at 11:39 PM, the Kent Fire Department Regional Fire Authority responded to a chemical leak, on the 6200 block of South 228 Street, in a shipping/receiving facility after a 55 gallon drum was punctured by a forklift. The driver of the forklift was evaluated and released by King County Medic One paramedics. There were 30 employees at the time of the spill but no one besides the driver was exposed. The employees evacuated the building and were in the parking lot as fire crews arrived.

The incident turned into a multi-department response once the leak was confirmed. Hazmat crews from the Renton Fire Department, Port of Seattle Fire Department, and South King Fire Rescue responded to this call. King County Medic One and the Zone 3 Rehab unit also assisted during the incident.

Once the specialized team of Hazmat responders entered the building, they were able to find the leak and determine that there was no eminent danger as well as confirm that the punctured drum contained Organic Peroxide. The majority of the chemical was confined to the trailer it was in. They reported that there was only a small amount that had leaked out of the trailer on to the asphalt and nothing made its way into the building itself. The crew also ensured that there was no threat of the leak reaching any of the storm drains on the property.

The employees were allowed to re-enter the building after the Hazmat team deemed the building to be safe. A company that specializes in chemical clean-up was called and on scene prior to any of the fire crews leaving.

According to the company supervisor, the evacuation of the building went very smooth and attributed that to the annual emergency drills in which all the employees participate in. Drilling the emergency plan greatly reduced the potential for harm.

It is always a good idea to have an emergency plan, for work and home. Once a plan is in place, ensure that everyone is not only familiar with it, but also has a chance to practice it on a regular basis.

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