

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 21, 2014



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UPDATE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (November 21, 2014) Suffolk Fire & Rescue advises that 9 patients from this afternoon's incident remained at Sentara Obici Hospital for observation, however, medical officials indicated that all are expected to be released this evening.

Suffolk Fire & Rescue crews stayed on scene this evening as the facility continued to be ventilated, and will return tomorrow morning to check the air quality before it reopens. In total, 24 employees had been evacuated from the Ark Group warehouse facility.

HAZMAT INCIDENT AT WAREHOUSE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (November 21, 2014) Suffolk Fire & Rescue crews are currently on the scene at a warehouse located in the 1000 block of Obici Industrial Boulevard responding to a hazmat incident that resulted in multiple people receiving treatment and medical transport.

Emergency dispatchers received the call at 2:09 p.m. advising of an unconscious patient at the location. After the patient was initially assessed and symptoms were determined, emergency personnel performed an air quality test of the warehouse and found that the further they entered the facility, the higher the levels of carbon monoxide became. It was determined that employees had been operating the fork

lifts with the doors closed due to cold temperatures and over the course of the afternoon the fumes worsened. The building was cleared of all employees.

Once outside, additional employees began complaining of headaches and dizziness. A total of 8 patients were ground transported to Sentara Obici Hospital, and 5 patients that had been initially assessed determined they wanted to respond in their own personal vehicles. All had non-life threatening injuries.

Crews used fans on engines to assist in ventilating the building after all doors were opened. Norfolk Fire & Rescue is also providing mutual aid and bringing in additional fans.

Chesapeake Fire & Rescue Medic-9 is assisting in covering the northern part of Suffolk due to the number of units that responded to this incident.

Suffolk Police are also on scene providing traffic assistance and security.

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