

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UPDATE

SUFFOLK, VA (September 11, 2014) The Suffolk Fire Marshal's Office advises that the State Lab in Richmond confirmed that their initial lab results produced the same results as the field tests performed on the chemical substance found yesterday which caused the evacuation of the facility. Further testing will continue at the State Lab.

The Safety Officer for NEXCOM was notified of the results and the facility reopened this morning at 3:30 a.m.

NEXCOM BUILDING EVACUATED

SUFFOLK, VA (September 10, 2014) Suffolk Fire & Rescue and Suffolk Police responded earlier this morning to the Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) Northeast Distribution Center at CenterPoint Intermodal Center in the 1000 block of Kenyon Court for the report of an employee having a reaction to a chemical substance.

Emergency Communications received the call at 11:52 a.m. advising that the male employee encountered an unknown chemical substance at the base of a pallet after

removing boxes from a pallet inside the warehouse. The employee's hands experienced an allergic reaction and he was ground transported to Sentara Obici Hospital for treatment.

The State Regional HazMat Officer, FBI, and Regional HazMat team, with the assistance of Chesapeake HazMat and Portsmouth HazMat, responded to the scene, as well as Suffolk Fire & Rescue Engine 4, Rescue 1, EMS 1, Battalion 1, Command Bus and the Fire Marshal's Office.

Suffolk Police closed the entrance to the facility and the building and its 150 employees were evacuated as a precautionary measure. The preliminary results of the field test for the substance were negative for any materials for which they typically test and also ruled out any potential terrorist activity.

A sample of the substance was sent to Richmond for further testing. The building remained closed for the balance of the day and it is anticipated that the building will re-open tomorrow following results of additional testing.

The Suffolk Fire Marshal's Office is handling the investigation.

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