

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

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Contact:

Diana L. Klink
757.514.4104
757.359.1845

FIREFIGHTERS TREATED FOLLOWING EXPOSURE TO PESTICIDE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (November 3, 2017) – Suffolk Fire & Rescue advises that 9 firefighters were treated and released from Sentara Obici Hospital this evening after they were exposed to a pesticide while responding to an incident earlier this evening.

Emergency Communications was notified at 6:22 p.m. after workers in a nearby business in the 1300 block of Progress Road advised that they saw smoke coming from the Continental Terminals facility.

Battalion Chief Chuck Knight advised that no one was at the facility upon arrival of firefighters and that they had to force entry into the building. Firefighters encountered a haze that was initially thought to be smoke, but was then determined to be a pesticide that was being used to fog the facility. In such circumstances advance notification is to be provided to the Fire Marshal's Office so they are aware of these situations. The affected firefighters received emergency medical assessment on scene and were transported to Sentara Obici Hospital for further evaluation. As noted, all of the firefighters were treated and released.

Responding units included Engines 1, 3, 4 and 6, Rescue 1, Ladders 3 and 5, EMS-1, Safety 1, Battalions 1 and 2, Medics 1, 3 and 6, and the Fire Marshal's Office.

Suffolk Police provided security at the scene and the roadway was completely closed for a period of time, and then traffic was alternated. The roadway reopened to through traffic at approximately 8:48 p.m.

The Fire Marshal's Office will be handling the investigation.

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