



FIRE DEPARTMENT
Operations Division

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Joseph Hoffman, Assistant Fire Chief
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Press Release

To: All Media Outlets

From: Joseph (Joe) Hoffman, Assistant Fire Chief

Date: December 12, 2019

Re: Explosion at 401 Sentry Drive

At approximately 13:42, the City of Waukesha Police and Fire Dispatch Center started to receive numerous calls of an explosion near Airgas in Waukesha. City of Waukesha Police and Fire Departments responded to the area and were met with representatives from Airgas who identified that they had an explosion in the Hydrogen storage area of the plant. They identified that all workers were out of the plant area and accounted for. They also identified that a number of small cylinders were leaking and a small fire was in that area. Fire Department personnel immediately isolated the area around the plant to ensure the safety of the community. Then crews were sent to extinguish the fire. After extinguishment a number of damaged tanks were left to finish venting. One Airgas employee was treated at the scene by Waukesha Fire Department personnel, but refused further treatment or transport.

Waukesha Police and Fire are working with Airgas Representatives to determine the cause of the explosion. All roads in the area are back up for business, none of the neighboring businesses were closed due to this incident.

The Fire Department thanks the Waukesha Police and Public Works Departments for their assistance with the evacuation and isolation of the area around the plant. The Department would also like to thank Airgas Plant representatives for their quick actions in accounting for all workers and having appropriate emergency procedures in place to mitigate this emergency. All media inquiries to Airgas should be directed to Barry Strzelec, Director Investor Relations and Corporate Communications, (610)592-4838 or Sarah Stockton-Brown Communications Manager (215) 495-8439 or via email at mediasupport@airgas.com

The Fire Department reminds all businesses to have an emergency plan and to exercise this plan routinely, as we have seen from this incident today, it is the best way to prevent injuries when there is an emergency.

No additional information is planned to be released for this incident. Please contact the on-duty Battalion Chief at (262) 524-3669.

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