



LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 24, 2015

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Lakeland Firefighters Respond to Hazardous Materials Leak, Building Evacuated.

Lakeland, FL –

At 3:41 PM, on August 24, 2015, Lakeland Firefighters responded to a hazardous materials leak at the Veritiv Corporation located at 6870 Firstpark Blvd. Initial arriving units determined that a 55 gallon container of highly flammable naphtha was punctured inside of the facility by workers utilizing a forklift. The Veritiv Corporation serves as distributor of commercial paper products. Naphtha is often utilized as a solvent to clean industrial ink printing devices and is a petroleum based product very similar to gasoline. The building was occupied by 15 employees, all of which safely evacuated the building prior to the arrival of fire units.

A unified command structure was established with Polk County Fire Rescue providing a hazardous material team to support the incident. Electrical services were disconnected from the building to prevent ignition of the vapors as firefighters worked within the facility to contain the liquid product. The scene was brought under control and transferred back to the Veritiv Corporation at 6:30 PM. Residual chemical product will be removed from the facility by a private contractor under the control of the Veritiv Corporation.

Responding fire units were LFD Battalion Chief 2, Engine 61, Engine 11, Engine 12, Rescue 62, Tower 15, Car 6, Car 11, PCFR Medic 131, and PCFR Squad 461.

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Gary Ballard, Fire Chief

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