



SPEEDWAY FIRE

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SPEEDWAY BATTLES HAZMAT INCIDENT WITH ASSISTANCE FROM NEIGHBORING DEPARTMENTS

The night shift employees at the Coca Cola bottling plant located at 5000 W.25th St. in Speedway noticed a strong odor of “Ammonia” coming from the front half of the plant at 10:05pm last night. The decision was made immediately to evacuate and call 911. The dispatch went out to the Speedway Fire Department as a spill investigation with Speedway Engine 89 responding and on the scene within 2 minutes. Upon their arrival the incident was upgraded from an investigation to a working HAZ-MAT incident. Multiple additional units were then dispatched and arrived on scene to begin operations. The Incident Command, SFD Bn. Chief Jeff Hartman worked closely with the Haz-Mat team from Wayne Township Fire and WTFD Battalion 80 Bn. Chief Todd Taylor to devise a plan. The Hazmat team made entry and determined that the concentration of Ammonia gas was well over acceptable tolerances which would be 25ppm or less, their readings discovered the Ammonia present at 700ppm. As they searched for means to reduce the leaking product the decision was made to start a second Haz-Mat team from the Indianapolis Fire Department to assist the team already working in full Haz-Mat gear. These multiple agencies continued to work the problem at hand and in concert with plant officials from Coke, were able to determine the location of shut off valves and turned them off. The Ammonia gas present by 2:00 am had been reduced to 150ppm and was staying consistently at that level. The joint decision was reached to transition the scene back to control of Coca Cola and their refrigeration specialists which is what the Ammonia was being used for. At that time the plant was unable to be opened



back up due to the Ammonia concentrations and plant officials understood this. It would remain down until readings were at 25ppm or lower and they immediately went to work to make this happen.

There were no civilian or Firefighter injuries or illnesses during this entire event and at no time was the surrounding public in any danger as exterior Ammonia levels were well below tolerance limits.

Fire Departments and units on the scene were as follows,

- The Speedway Fire Department, Incident Commander BN. Chief Jeff Hartman, Engine 89, PIO & Investigator 20 Bn. Chief Everett M. Cheney.
- The Wayne Township Fire Department, Bn 80 Battalion Chief Todd Taylor, Engine and Tac 81, Engine 83, Medic 81
- The Indianapolis Fire Department, Tactical 19, Tac support 19, Tactical 13, Engine 13, Bn. Chief 7, Squad 13, Bn. Chief 01, Engine 19, Ladder 19, Safety car 2, TSU18
- Marion County Health department

Thank you,

Everett M. Cheney

Bn. Chief / P.I.O.

Speedway Fire Department

