



Administration Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BURLINGTON – At approximately 6:05 p.m. the Burlington Fire Department received a call for a fire at Echo Lake Foods, a food manufacturing plant in the City of Burlington. The Fire Department discovered a significant fire ignited at the plant and immediately called for assistance from neighboring departments. The plant was successfully evacuated and there are no injuries reported to any employees or firefighters. As of this hour, firefighters are still fighting the blaze.

At this time it is an 8-alarm fire and assistance has been provided from more than 80 agencies from a wide area of Wisconsin. Emergency crews from Racine, Walworth, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Dane and several other counties have responded to the blaze. Additionally the Racine Hazardous Materials Unit is on the scene monitoring air quality and assistance is being provided by the Southeast Wisconsin Incident Command Management Team.

The Burlington Police Department evacuated ten homes and one apartment complex approximately one-half mile east and south of the factory due to smoke inhalation concerns. This consisted of approximately 50 people. The Red Cross offered assistance to those evacuated if they did not have a place to stay for the night. Currently eight people have been provided assistance and are staying at a local hotel. Those who have been evacuated should contact the Burlington Police Department to determine when it will be safe to return to their homes.

The plant also utilizes ammonia, however the fire suppression measures and plant safety systems have prevented the release of any ammonia, and this situation is stable at this time.

Echo Lake Produce manufactures bulk egg products for commercial use and employs approximately 300 people at their factory in Burlington. The factory is approximately 70,000 square feet. It is one of Burlington's largest employers. Company officials have informed their employees to not report for work this morning and to wait for company officials to contact them with information regarding the plant.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation. The Wisconsin State Fire Marshall's office and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms will be assisting in the fire investigation.

There are no damage loss estimates at this time.

Additional information will be released as it become available.

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