

Incident 027253 - Chemical Fire Broyhill Construction Site

Date: March 20, 2009

Incident: 027253

Address: Broyhill Construction Site
409 3rd ST SE
Conover, North Carolina 28613

Complaint: Chemical Fire of unknown nature

Conover Station 15 was dispatched to a reported Chemical Fire of unknown nature and location. CommCenter was only able to advise that a fire was being reported as being on the property of the Broyhill Construction Site and to involve some type of chemical.

Station 15 responded with apparatus structure response protocols: (2) Engine Companies; (1) Ladder Company and (1) Chief. Apparatus responding included: 15-E1, 15-E2, 15-L1, Chief 150, 15-T1. Additional resources included Conover Police Department, Catawba County Emergency Medical Service 3 Medic 8, Newton-Conover Rescue Squad and Catawba County Emergency Management.

Upon arrival of fire personnel, initial scene size up reporting a yellow/greenish smoke issuing from one of the 3000 gallon tanks on the site. This tank had been removed from its original location and was being prepared for demolition and oriented on its side. Fire Chief 150 established Broyhill Command located in the parking lot that is on site.

EMS and Rescue was requested by Broyhill Command for medical stand-by and Unit 901 and Unit 1 were requested for possible Hazardous Materials situation of unknown chemical. Additional units were staged on 3rd ST SE.

From pre-incident surveys and on-site pre-planning by the Fire Department, it was known that these tanks were part of the finishing process of Broyhill and had been out of service for approximately ten (10) years. Broyhill Command requested the Tier 2 reports from Station 1. Conover 1540 is in the process of getting the reports and data on file from Broyhill and reporting to the scene with the information.

Command assigned a crew of four personnel in full protective equipment to approach tank with Gas Monitor, Thermal Image Camera and two (2) Dry Powder extinguishers.

Tier 2 reports showed that these tanks were containing products used in finishing of the wood products at Broyhill. Products included Lacquer finishes and Sealers for the Wood Furniture Industry.

Broyhill Command researched products by chemical name on Visions Mobile HazCom Module and Emergency Response Guide Book. Actions taken thus far by Fire Department were correct responses as determining nature of a fire or build up of heat in the tank.

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Thermal Image Camera showed a build up of heat within the tank, reading approximately 100 degrees F. Gas reading was showing approximately 9ppm of CO and 3ppm on LEL. Other tanks around the area were reading approximately 30 degrees F cooler.

Fire Crew exhausted one 25Lb Dry Powder Extinguisher to the interior of the tank. Additional TIC readings showed temperature going down and product left in the tank was cooling. Fire Crews exhausted an additional 50Lb of Dry Powder Chemical within the tank. Additional TIC readings and gas monitor readings showed a reduction in temperature and a reduction in CO readings and LEL readings.

Broyhill Command discussed options with Demolition Company on site of leaving tank in place over the weekend and moving same on Monday to the demolition site in Guilford County. CCEM concurred with Commands recommendation.

No evacuations of the area were needed or implemented due to the incident being on a 27 +/- site and isolated from residences and other structures being occupied. Chemical within the tank is highly flammable and explosive in nature and in quantity. The current state of the chemical posed no immediate danger other than fire and danger was controlled with dry-powder being applied in the quantity used by the Fire Department.

At approximately 1911 hours, Command began releasing additional resources on scene while Fire Department remained on scene to De-con equipment. At 1938 hours, Station 15 cleared the Broyhill Construction Site.

Equipment on scene: (2) Fire Engines, (1) Ladder Company, (1) Chief, (1) Support Unit, (1) ALS Unit, (1) NCRS Unit, (3) CCEM Units, (1) CPD Unit.

Personnel on Scene: (31) Total Fire Personnel
(6) Fire Officers
(1) Chief; (1) Asst Chief; (2) Captain; (2) Lieutenant
(16) Vol/PT Staff
(9) Full-time Staff
(4) On-duty
(5) Call-Back

Equipment Used: (6) Dry Powder Extinguishers
(2) Gas Monitors
(Filters will need Replacing after use and re-calibration of units)
(1) Thermal Image Camera
(1) Fire Service Ladder
(1) 50ft section hose for De-Con

Additional information contained on CAD Operations Report entered by Broyhill Command on-scene through MDT – Visions Mobile.

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