



# BELOIT POLICE DEPARTMENT



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## PRESS RELEASE

Incident Number: 13-2925

Date: April 18, 2013

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### **BELOIT HAZMAT RESPONSE UPDATE**

On April 17, 2013 at approximately 10:15 a.m., the Beloit Fire Department was dispatched to Beloit Community Health located at 72 Eclipse Boulevard. The report indicated that an employee opened an envelope which had a powdery substance within it and three people were experiencing a burning sensation in their nose and eyes. The envelope had been hand delivered to Beloit Community Health as a bill payment by a white male.

Based on the report given to the first responders, additional assistance was requested to secure the scene and handle the potentially serious situation. Together the following agencies worked throughout the day and into the evening on a hazmat response: the Beloit Police Department, Beloit Fire Department, Beloit Public Works, Janesville Fire Department, Rock County Sheriff's Office, Rock County Emergency Management, the FBI, and the 54<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team.

A total of, fifteen people were decontaminated on site and then transported to local hospitals; seven patients went to Beloit Memorial Hospital and eight went to Mercy Hospital for additional evaluation. Everyone who was transported to a hospital was treated and released.

The fifty-six people who remained in the Beloit Community Health facility for over six hours were released shortly after 4:00 p.m.

Soon thereafter, the 54<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team entered the facility and sampled the envelope and its contents in question. The results of the preliminary tests determined that the envelope and work stations inside the Beloit Community Health facility were negative for any biological or chemical agents.

Yesterday afternoon, the individual that presented the envelope was interviewed. He was fully cooperative and could not explain the report of powder in his enveloped bill payment.

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, the Civil Support Team (CST) advised they were confident in the test results that there was no danger to the community. No further analysis will be completed on the envelope and its contents. The substance will remain classified as unknown and symptoms experienced as unexplainable.

City of Beloit Fire Chief Brad Liggett stated, “The positive news is that no one was seriously injured in this incident. We thank the City of Janesville, the 54<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team, and the Rock County Sheriff’s Office for their assistance. Although this wasn’t a major incident, the Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments are always committed to our mission and our residents to maintain a high quality of life in the City of Beloit.”