

FIRE DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Yates Avenue Fire Update - January 12th

4pm Friday, January 12, 2024

Around 12:45 am Friday, a report of smoke in the area of Yates and Copeland was reported to our department. Upon arrival, it was determined that a business at 1515 Yates Ave. was on fire.

This business had a significant number of tires stored at the location that began burning. Due to the high level of smoke, the neighborhood to the south was evacuated. After air quality monitoring showed no issues, those residents were able to return to their homes.

The fire has been extinguished. We want to thank the Department of Public Works in Beloit and Janesville and CCI for the innovative use of heavy equipment that allowed us to get this scene under control. We also want to thank the many fire departments in the area who assisted us, as well as local and state partners on both sides of the stateline.

A gas leak prompted that same neighborhood to be evacuated again. Alliant Energy has responded to address the leak. The gas is now off and it is safe for residents to return home. However, there may not be heat in the homes until service is restored.

Questions regarding any potential environmental impacts can be directed to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

We wanted to provide a few updates from our local partners below:

School District of Beloit - Provided an Emergency Warming Location

The School District of Beloit immediately responded to open Merrill Elementary School as a warming shelter for those impacted by the first evacuation. The below statement is from Superintendent Dr. Willie E. Garrison II:

"The School District of Beloit is happy to assist with the needs of the families affected by this tragic fire. Throughout this time, we will continue to support and serve the families, the City of Beloit, the Red Cross, and First Responders. I want to thank our staff, who responded early

this morning to open the doors of Merrill Elementary. My thoughts and prayers are with everyone."

Wisconsin National Guard's 54th Civil Support Team (CST)

The Wisconsin National Guard's 54th Civil Support Team (CST) received a request for assistance from the Rock County emergency manager around 6:30 a.m. Jan. 12 to provide air monitoring and potential plume modeling in Beloit, Wisconsin, due to a fire at a tire recycling facility on Yates Avenue.

The 54th CST responded with eight personnel and two vehicles with air monitoring equipment, and coordinated with the Beloit Fire Department upon arrival shortly before 10 a.m. After meeting all of the incident commander's objectives, the 54th was released around 12:15 p.m. and returned to Madison, Wisconsin.

The 54th Civil Support Team is a specialized unit of full-time Army and Air National Guard members trained to respond to chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear emergencies.

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