

FIRE DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Sarah Lock, Director of Strategic Communications
(608) 364-6726 or locks@beloitwi.gov

Yates Avenue Fire Update

Jan. 18, 2024 - The City of Beloit Fire Department is providing an update on the fire at 1515 Yates Avenue that happened early Friday morning, January 12.

At this time, the cause of the fire remains undetermined. The fire started in the building in the warehouse area; that building fully collapsed during the fire. We are thankful that no injuries occurred during the building collapse and that there were no injuries sustained during the duration of the event.

THANK YOU

There are many organizations that the City of Beloit Fire Department wants to thank for their support during the fire and gas leak incident on Friday.

Other fire departments that responded to the scene and backfilled stations include: Town of Beloit, Janesville, South Beloit, Town of Turtle, Rockton, Harlem Roscoe, Lakeside, Capron, Boone County, Cherry Valley, Loves Park, Monroe and North Park fire departments.

CCI and Janesville's and Beloit's Department of Public Works played a crucial role in moving tires from the scene so the fire did not spread further. Without that support and advance planning, the fire would likely have taken days to extinguish instead of 16 hours.

Other groups that the City of Beloit Fire Department is thanking include Rock County Communications Center (911 dispatch), Southern Wisconsin Emergency Preparedness Team (SWEPT), Alliant Energy, Rock County and City of Beloit emergency management, Beloit and Town of Beloit Police, Wisconsin National Guard's 54th Civil Support Team (CST), Red Cross, Salvation Army, School District of Beloit, Central Christian Church, Beloit Public Library, Beloit Department of Public Works (for additional work beyond moving tires), Canadian-Pacific Railroad (held all train traffic from coming through), Rock County Human Services, Rock County Public Health, Wisconsin Emergency Management, Beloit Transit and numerous other City of Beloit staff members who assisted behind the scenes.

It truly took a team effort to respond to this emergency.

HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

The City of Beloit Fire Department is concerned about the storage of tires for the property at 1515 Yates Ave. Leadership at the department has been proactive in working with the property owner in addressing this issue. The fire chief and deputy fire chief continued to visit the property frequently in an attempt to mitigate the issue, including their last visit in December 2023.

Simultaneously, state agencies have partnered with the city on this issue.

The following paragraph is from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) previously issued a Notice of Violation and Nuisance Tire Placement Determination to Dan Langone. Since then, the DNR has continued to address violations of state solid waste statutes and rules at the property owned by Belcoat Corporation, Inc./Dan Langone located at 1515 Yates Avenue in Beloit, WI in Rock County. Belcoat Corporation, Inc. was referred to the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) and the case remains active. Inquiries regarding the status of litigation should be directed to DOJ at 608-266-1220.

The City of Beloit Fire Department has received several requests for interviews from the news media regarding the Yates Avenue fire. We are unable to provide additional interviews regarding the history of the property. Any additional questions about the tires on this property and the legal issues on the property should be directed to the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) at 608-266-1220.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The Wisconsin National Guard's 53th CST completed air quality testing at the scene of the fire after the initial evacuations were completed. The air quality testing revealed no public health concerns.

The fire was extinguished using water only - we did not use any foam that could negatively impact the environment. We were able to build a trench at the scene quickly to start extinguishing the tires that were on fire while having the other tires moved away from the area. These actions helped protect our environment.

The City of Beloit Department of Public Works - during a blizzard-like snowstorm - placed barriers in the Turtle Creek around 2am Friday to prevent any runoff.

The City of Beloit Fire Department has not been made aware of any ongoing environmental concerns due to this fire. Any additional environmental questions can be directed to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

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