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Chemical spill closes roadway

A Haz-Mat team spends several hours cleaning up spill of ethyl acetate and ethyl alcohol mixture.

From staff reports

ADRIAN - A chemical spill closed vehicle and railroad traffic for several hours Monday while a hazardous materials team from Elkhart, Ind., arrived to clean up the scene.

A 55-gallon barrel containing a mixture of ethyl acetate and ethyl alcohol was being transported by a FedEx truck that had stopped at Aget Manufacturing, 1408 E. Church St., in Adrian to pick up dust-collecting equipment.

The spill occurred while an Aget employee was loading equipment onto the truck.

"Our shipping clerk punched a hole in the drum with a forklift," Mike Marvin, plant superintendent of Aget Manufacturing, said.

At 2:36 p.m. the Adrian Fire Department was dispatched to the scene and assisted by Adrian City Police, Lenawee Community Ambulance, Michigan State Police Motor Carrier, Sunpro Environmental and a representative from Silbond. Adrian Fire Chief Paul Trinkka said most of the chemical remained in the truck, though some leaked through the bottom.

"(The hole) was down near the bottom, so most of the product leaked out on the floor of the truck and the ground," Trinkka said.

Less than a gallon of the chemical seeped into the storm drain, though there was not enough water in the catch basin for the product to go anywhere. A vacuum truck from Findlay, Ohio, arrived late Monday night to clean it out.

The MSP Motor Carrier said the chemical drums were in the proper containers and had been loaded and secured properly, according to a press release.

Trinkka said there will probably be discussion between Aget and FedEx about who will pay for the clean-up costs, which he did not have an estimate for.



Adrian Firefighters Aric Massingill and Don Cushing put down dirt on the spilled chemical behind the Federal Express truck that contained the chemicals that spilled at Aget Manufacturing. Captain Randy Grof stands by with a fire hose. - Telegram photo by Lad Strayer.

The chemicals had originated from Silbond Corp. in Weston. Trinkka said the chemicals were en route to Louisiana.

According to chemical data sheets, the chemicals could cause irritation to eyes and skin and could cause dizziness in a concentrated amount. As a precaution, Church Street was closed from Gulf to Maumee streets and railroad traffic was stopped at Maumee Street.

The Adrian Fire Department contained the chemicals until the team from Sunpro Environmental, of Elkhart, Ind., which is contracted by FedEx, could arrive. They were on the scene until 10:30 p.m.

City Administrator George Brown said he was briefed during the day on the spill and sent an e-mail to city commissioners to inform them of the situation.

Brown said he was told the neighborhood near the spill was not in danger.

Two people were advised to seek treatment at Bixby Medical Center, but only one agreed to go, the release said.

None of the 14 firefighters responding to the scene were injured.

-- CLOSE WINDOW--