



Akron Fire Department Division of Public Safety

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For Immediate Release:

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AKRON FIRE DEPARTMENT AND EMERALD PERFORMANCE MATERIALS DEVELOP PLAN TO DISPOSE OF REMAINING BUTADIENE CHEMICAL AT AKRON PLANT

Supervised disposal process to begin Wednesday, August 1

AKRON – (July 31, 2018) – On Wednesday, July 18, there was a fire at the Emerald Performance Materials plant located on West Emerling Street. The building where the fire occurred contained butadiene, a chemical used on the premises. Emerald continues to work in collaboration with the Akron Fire Department, several local, state and federal agencies and outside consultants during the clean-up and restoration of the site.

The next step in the site restoration is to remove the remaining butadiene from the Emerald plant. Emerald hired several third-party environmental experts to develop the disposal plan which will begin tomorrow, Wednesday, August 1, at approximately 3:00 pm. After reviewing the various removal options, it has been determined that the safest option is to burn off the remaining butadiene through a controlled, tightly monitored process.

The full process is expected to take anywhere from 24 to 48 hours to complete. The plan was reviewed by Akron Air Quality, Ohio EPA, Akron Fire Department and the US EPA prior to being finalized. It has been determined that given the limited amount of chemical to be disposed of and the tightly controlled process, no health risks to the public are expected, therefore evacuation will not be needed, and no other precautions for the public are needed at this time.

Residents may see smoke coming from the Emerald Akron location and may see the glow from the controlled burn in the evening hours. Emergency personnel will be on site as a precaution and air monitoring will be conducted throughout the entire operation. Fire Chief Clarence Tucker and Emerald Performance Materials have agreed that this process represents the safest option for removing the remaining butadiene from the facility.

No injuries occurred as the result of the original incident on July 18 thanks in part to the required training Emerald employees participate in and the safety protocols that were in place, as well as the fast and effective response of the Akron Fire Department.

If residents have questions about this process, they should call the Akron Fire Department at 330-375-2101.