



## **NEWS RELEASE**

Date: January 5, 2009  
Release: Immediately  
Contact: Storm Smith, PIO, 503-681-6273, 503-615-6666 PIO pager



### **(Precautionary Response to Industrial Chemical Incident)**

At 11:58 am Monday, January 5, 2009, firefighters from Hillsboro Fire and Rescue responded to a report of an industrial chemical incident at 2300 NE Brookwood Parkway. Upon arrival, firefighters found that a worker at Triquint Semiconductor had accidentally mixed two chemicals together that created a highly toxic gas. The chemicals mixed were 15-gallons of a two-percent dilution of cyanide and six-gallons of a five- to ten-percent dilution of sulfuric acid. The worker told firefighters he noticed his mistake when he saw the chemical reaction produced foam atop the mixture. He immediately evacuated the plant's clean room where he had been working. There were only about a two dozen workers in the plant due to the holiday shutdown. All escaped unharmed. They were preparing to resume production on Tuesday at which time there would have been as many as 50 employees in the plant. The plant's built-in safety system includes scrubbers that remove toxic fumes from the air handling system and ensures that such an accident has no impact on neighboring businesses or the environment.

After consulting with Triquint's engineers, the incident commander requested the response of a Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Response Team from Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue (TVF&R). The HazMat team donned protective suits and made entry into the manufacturing facility and determined that all chemical reactions of the mixture had ceased. The company brought in a private contractor, Clean Harbors of Clackamas, to remove the 21-gallons of chemicals which remained in a mixing sink.

"The team at Triquint did everything right in this situation," said Battalion Chief Terry Lindauer, the incident commander. "The worker recognized his mistake, immediately evacuated his fellow workers and asked for a fire department response as a precaution."

Resources from Hillsboro Fire and Rescue included two engine companies, a ladder truck company and a battalion chief. Resources from TVF&R included two HazMat companies.

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