



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **(Emergency Response Scaled Back for Chemical Fire at Maxim Integrated Products)**

What began as a hazardous materials incident with road closures and evacuations, is now a small confined fire that is being closely monitored and a fire crew on-scene with charged hose lines. In addition, Murray Boulevard has been re-opened, only a small section of Jenkins Road (between Murray and Karl Braun) remains closed, and one person has been evacuated for the night from the Nut Tree Mobile Home Park off Jenkins Road.

The incident began at 4:27 pm today, when Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue was called to Maxim Integrated Products at 14320 SW Jenkins Road in Beaverton on a reported fire. When crews arrived they were met by Maxim's Emergency Response Team who stated that they were changing a cylinder of Silane gas when a leak occurred and fire broke out. Because Silane gas is pyrophoric—it immediately combusts upon coming into contact with air—and the affected cylinder was one of many such cylinders located in the outside storage area, the crew immediately called for additional units including the District's Hazardous Materials Team. Beaverton Police and Washington County Sheriffs Office were also called to the scene to assist with road closures.

Throughout the incident TVF&R responders worked closely with Maxim's Emergency Response Team who is extremely familiar with the chemicals and equipment used in their production processes. Although a built-in fire suppression system was in place and activated immediately following the leak, all emergency responders agreed at the onset of the incident to implement the utmost precautionary measures: Murray Boulevard was closed (between Jenkins Road and Millikan Street) and Jenkins Road was closed (between Murray and Ecole Street). It was only after responders confirmed that the fire was not growing and the remaining cylinders being kept cool enough to not pose a fire risk, that they began loosening road closures and scaling back the operation. Maxim's operation has been shut down for the evening.

The leak posed no inhalation hazard to nearby residents or employees. According to Maxim, 99% of Silane gas released into the atmosphere burns, with no toxic byproduct. The remaining 1% becomes silicon dust (sand) and falls to the ground. According to Maxim officials, this is believed to be the first incident involving a Silane gas leak at their facility. Maxim employs 790 employees. There were about 400 employees working at the time of the incident.

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