CONROE DRILL CHEM FIRE

For Immediate Release  
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8/15/2015

Conroe, TX: The City of Conroe Fire Department was notified of an explosion in the 4300 block of N Loop 336 W near Highway 105 E at approximately 4:44 PM on August 14, 2015.

Conroe Fire units arrived at 4:46 and reported heavy fire from a large commercial structure. Due to several ongoing explosions, and the possible nature of the facility's contents, it was several minutes before firefighters could safely attack the fire directly.

Once it was determined that the fire could be safely attacked, firefighters quickly brought it under control. The incident was officially declared under control at approximately 6:51 PM.

As a precautionary measure, a "shelter in place" order was issued for a two-mile radius during the initial stages of the incident. Hazardous Material crews continuously monitored air quality and did not detect any situation that could potentially be harmful. The order was reduced to one-half mile at approximately 6:39 PM and was cancelled altogether at approximately 7:40 PM. Representatives from the TCEQ and EPA were on location helping to monitor any potential negative environmental effects in the immediate and surrounding areas.

The Conroe Fire Department was assisted by the Cut N Shoot Fire Department, The Woodlands Fire Department, Central Montgomery County Fire Department, South Montgomery County Fire Department, Needham Fire Department, Atascocita Fire Department, the Montgomery County Fire Marshal's Office, and the Montgomery County Hospital District. In total, 2 ladder trucks, 10 engines, 6 battalion chiefs, and 2 hazardous materials units were utilized to bring the incident under control.

According to the ownership of the business, all employees had left work for the day by approximately 4:00 PM. Both gates to the facility were closed and locked upon arrival of fire units. There is no indication at this time that the building was occupied at the time of the incident.

One firefighter was transported to Conroe Regional ER with heat-related injuries. He was kept overnight for observation and is in stable condition.

The Conroe Fire Department Fire Marshal's Office has initiated an investigation into the origin and cause of the fire. The investigation is in the early stages. Updates will be made when information becomes available.