



CITY OF BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

100 Civic Center Parkway
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
952-895-4600 • Fax 952-895-4640

Robert T. Hawkins
Chief of Police

Oct. 5, 2012

Contact:
Sgt. Don Stenger
952-895-4638

BURNSVILLE, OTHER AGENCIES PERFORM 'MOCK EMERGENCY' TRAINING AT BURNSVILLE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

A chemical spill at the Burnsville Water Treatment Plant results in a number of victims – and a coordinated effort by multiple agencies to save lives and contain the situation ensues. That was the scenario on Oct. 4 when members of Burnsville Police, Fire and Public Works – along with Fairview Ridges Hospital and multiple neighboring agencies – performed a real-time mock emergency response drill.

“The Police Department trains regularly for the more ‘routine’ types of calls,” said Burnsville Police Sgt. and Emergency Management Coordinator Don Stenger. “Our Fire Department also has an aggressive training program – but again, the focus is usually on ‘routine’ events. Exercises like the one at the Water Treatment Plant require a response that is anything but routine.”

The City of Burnsville, which has a detailed emergency operations plan in place, trains with its Emergency Operations Center at City Hall annually, while holding more in depth, full-scale exercises periodically. According to Stenger, these exercises prepare responders and other City employees for high risk – low frequency events that could take place in Burnsville.

“In emergency management, we always ‘plan for the worst and hope for the best’,” said Stenger. “It’s important that we create a scenario that, while extremely unlikely to occur, prepares us for anything that could be thrown at us. We will review how the exercise went, note the great work that was done, as well as areas for improvement, and provide additional training and equipment in the areas needed. It’s all a part of the proactive emergency preparedness culture we have fostered here in Burnsville.”

Responders from Burnsville’s mutual aid partners, including Eagan, Apple Valley, Savage, Dakota County Special Operations Team, Dakota Communications Center and Fairview Ridges Hospital also took part in the exercise. For more information on Burnsville’s Emergency Preparedness Plan visit www.burnsville.org/prepare.

(High-resolution photos available upon request.)







###