



# MONTANA EMERGENCY SERVICES BULLETIN

OFFICE: 406-444-1330 FAX: 406-444-1349 EMAIL: CIP@MT.GOV



## **FIRE**

### **(U) RESPONSE TO CRYOGENIC LIQUIDS**

(U) Cryogenic liquids are used in a variety of industries including medical, agricultural and food processing, and metallurgical work. Cryogenic materials have specific housing and storage needs which may be unfamiliar to emergency responders.

(U) Fluids with a boiling point lower than -130F at an absolute pressure of 14.7 pounds per square inch are considered cryogenic. Gases are compressed and cooled to below room temperature, causing them to liquefy. To return to a gas, it must be decompressed in stages. Storage containers for these liquids must comply with National Fire Protection Association codes and standards.

(U) In order for medical facilities to use cryogenic liquids, the liquids must be converted into a gas using vaporizers. This process causes moisture in the outside air to condense on parts of the vaporizer, where it ices. Some ice is normal, but large amounts of ice can damage the system. Only technicians familiar with the systems should work on them if there is a large accumulation of ice.

(U) Responding agencies should keep in mind these other hazards:

- (U) Components of cryogenic systems will be very cold; touching them can cause thermal burns, and skin may stick and tear when pulled away;
- (U) Cryogenic liquids converted to a gas will be very cold and often heavier than air; it may pool in low-lying areas and cause breathing problems;
- (U) Some cryogenic liquids (i.e., methane or liquefied natural gas) are flammable or explosive once in a gaseous state. (Source –EMR-ISAC, 13 March 2014)

### **(U) SHOTS FIRED INTO A PHILADELPHIA FIREHOUSE**

(U) Police are investigating a shooting that sent bullets flying into a Philadelphia firehouse Thursday afternoon.

(U) It was a very close call for firefighters. Gunfire tore through Engine 25 located at Hart Lane near Boudinot Street in Kensington around lunchtime.

(U) Four firefighters were inside the kitchen. Two firefighters were standing near the window when bullets came within a foot or two of their heads.

(U) Police found at least 6 bullet casings outside of the firehouse close to the building.

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(U) "It is scary for us as a union and for my brothers and sisters inside the firehouses to think that for no reason a person would shoot at a firehouse," said Joseph Schule, President of the Firefighters Union.

(U) "When it occurred, they were very shaken up. But now, since a few hours have passed, everybody has calmed down. But the two that were standing up, the bullets were literally a couple feet from their heads, and they quickly ducked for cover," said Schule.

(U) Neither firefighter was hurt.

(U) "They could have been seriously injured or killed, we know that. And luckily, blessedly, they are all safe. We are cooperating with police, and hopefully we will find out what is up," said Commissioner Lloyd Ayers.

(U) At least two rounds went through the window and lodged in the drywall inside. Another hit an air conditioning unit.

(U) Initially investigators thought Engine 25 was the target, but now they believe a person was the intended target. Who and why has not been released.

(U) "It sounds like it was an intentional attack on the firehouse, but we have no idea why. There were no recent incidents involving anyone in the neighborhood that anyone can point their finger to that may have led to this attack," said Schule.

(U) The president of Local 22 says this is not the first time a firehouse or a fire truck has been hit by gunfire, but this case appears to be intentional.

(U) The shooting remains under investigation. (Source - <http://abclocal.go.com>, 7 March 2014)

**(U) MAN INVOLVED IN KNOX STANDOFF IN CUSTODY, IDENTIFIED**

(U) The man who set his house on fire in the Town of Knox and threatened first responders Wednesday night is in police custody.

(U) Police say 49-year old Kenneth Fortuin set his house at 75 Saddlemire Rd. on fire late Wednesday night and threatened first responders. The man allegedly called 911 saying he was heavily armed.

(U) Police said he cut down trees in his driveway to prevent firefighters and police from entering his property.

(U) Fortuin threatened to leave the scene, so officials were advised to look out for his Chevy Silverado. But State Police said the man stayed on his property and was located in a field near the residence in his vehicle.

(U) "He made comments he left the perimeter. There was not a lot of credence given to that, but just as a precaution we wanted the patrols out on the road to have that information," said Lt. Keith Golden of New York State Police.

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(U) He was heavily armed while officials negotiated with him, but he turned himself in to police custody around 7 a.m. Thursday. Officials said he surrendered peacefully.

(U) Police said the incident started because of "personal" reasons, but did not go into detail.

(U) Fortuin lived alone at his property, according to police, and there were no injuries to anyone involved in the incident. At least one structure located on the property at the scene of the incident did suffer structural damage due to the inability of fire officials to properly fight the fire.

(U) The investigation is ongoing, and investigators say he is charged with third-degree Arson and Obstructing Firefighting Operations. Additional charges could be added. A judge entered a not guilty plea for Fortuin. He has been remanded to Albany County Jail with no bail set. (Source - <http://www.news10.com>, 6 February 2014)

*(U) Analyst Note: A similar incident took place the day prior in Bell County, Kentucky. Volunteer fire fighters were shot at while responding to a vehicle fire. An armed man came out of a residence and shot at fire fighters before reentering the home. Two individuals at the residence eventually surrendered to authorities. Fire fighters should coordinate with local law enforcement to put a plan in place for active shooter situations. (MATIC-TH)*

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(U//FOUO) Tracked by: MATIC-02.11-2014

PREPARED BY: TH

REVIEWED BY: AD

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