

**Patrick Cudahy Meat Packing Plant Fire
Media Statement
July 6, 2009**

Employees of the Patrick Cudahy meat packing plant and corporate headquarters facility are being asked to stay home until further notice following a fire that broke out late Sunday evening shortly before 10:00 p.m. Fortunately, there have been no injuries associated with the fire and all employees in the plant at the time the fire was spotted got out safely.

An evacuation order for a one-mile area surrounding the plant has been issued as a precaution because of low levels of ammonia in the air. The affected area of the evacuation includes Lake Drive, Pennsylvania Ave., Lunham Ave. and Ramsey Ave. Affected community members are being asked to bring their pets and pet supplies, medications and a few personal items to evacuation centers located at General Mitchell Elementary School, 5950 S. Illinois Ave., and at South Milwaukee High School, 801 15th Ave.

Patrick Cudahy would like to thank the more than 100 firefighters from 15 area fire departments, Cudahy Mayor Ryan McCue, employees and local community members and dignitaries for their help in battling the fire and their cooperation in fostering a safe evacuation, said company spokesperson Phil Maher.

Firefighters are continuing to bring the fire under control. Meanwhile, the plant's environmental, safety and health team is taking all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of Patrick Cudahy employees and members of the community. A decision about when to reopen the plant will be made pending a damage assessment.

"We appreciate how much this plant means to the community and to the people who depend on it for their livelihood. We will do everything within our power to make sure the plant is open and operating safely as soon as possible," said Bill Otis, President of Patrick Cudahy.

Salaried employees are to report to work on Tuesday at their normal work times. All hourly employees (includes plant and administrative) should not report to work unless they are called to work. Visit the Patrick Cudahy website, www.patrickcudahy.com, where information will be posted and updated continuously.

Customers with questions about orders should contact their sales representative or call Customer Service at 1-800-486-6900.

Patrick Cudahy plans to resume normal operations as soon as possible.