



Patrick Cudahy Operational Assessment Begins Immediately, Fire Under Control

Cudahy, Wis (July 7, 2009) - Patrick Cudahy officials will immediately begin assessing the damage and what portions of operations can resume following the unfortunate fire at the company's Milwaukee production complex near downtown Milwaukee.

"This has been a difficult two days for us," noted Bill Otis, President of Patrick Cudahy. "We can't say enough about the efforts of all who helped get us through this. Our thanks go out to the more than 130 firefighters from 15 area fire departments, Cudahy Mayor Ryan McCue, our employees, and local community members and law enforcement officials for their help in fostering a safe evacuation. We also are appreciative of the local citizens who curtailed their water usage so as not to hamper the fire fighting efforts."

While the fire has not yet been completely extinguished, company officials have been working for the last 24 hours from a local command post in order to monitor the situation and inform employees and customers of the status and next steps. "We hope to know the extent of the damage and what it's going to mean to our operations fairly soon," noted Otis. "At this point we do not know how the fire started and will be awaiting more information as fire officials begin their investigation."

The building affected by the fire is used for microwave bacon processing and dry storage, while the lower level of the building is used for ham processing. Not all areas of the Patrick Cudahy complex were affected by the fire.

"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 Otis. "We are also fortunate to be part of a larger organization like Smithfield Foods where we can rely on some of their other independent operating units to provide product to help us meet the needs of our customer."

Updated information will be continually posted on the Patrick Cudahy website, www.patrickcudahy.com Customers with questions about orders should contact their sales representative or call Customer Service at 1-800-486-6900.

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