



Patrick Cudahy Officials Thank Cudahy Community, Firefighters & Response Teams; Optimistic Plant Production Can Resume Soon

Cudahy, Wis. – (July 7, 2009) – As local firefighters and emergency personnel continue to bring the fire at the Cudahy plant under control, Cudahy residents are being asked to continue conserving their water usage until further notice. Firefighters have the fire contained and are closely monitoring two “hot spots” before declaring the fire is completely extinguished. Meanwhile, Patrick Cudahy officials are optimistic that some plant operations can resume soon and are praising the brave firefighters who have battled the blaze.

“We thank the more than 130 firefighters from 27 area fire departments, Cudahy Mayor Ryan McCue, law enforcement officials, Patrick Cudahy employees, local business members, government officials, volunteers from the Red Cross and Salvation Army and residents for their support and cooperation in fostering a safe evacuation and return during this extraordinary circumstance,” noted Bill Otis, president of Patrick Cudahy.

Patrick Cudahy officials have begun assessing damages and determining which areas of the production complex can resume normal operations. Based on the extraordinary work accomplished by local firefighters and Patrick Cudahy employees who helped contain ammonia tanks on site, the company’s offices, a portion of the meat processing plant and the facility’s power plant have been saved.

Salaried employees including administrative, human resources, purchasing, marketing, sales and other personnel have returned to work at the headquarters located adjacent to the manufacturing plant. Hourly employees have been asked not to return to work until the assessment of the production areas is completed and we know safe operations can resume.

Employees with questions about when to report to work can call the Patrick Cudahy communication center, 414-744-2000, or visit www.patrickcudahy.com for updates.

Smithfield Foods, parent company to Patrick Cudahy, is working with its other operating companies to determine where production can be shifted in the interim to minimize customer interruptions. Customers with questions about orders and delivery schedules should contact their sales representative or call Customer Service at 1-800-486-6900.

The building affected by the fire is the cooked ham and sliced meats processing areas and also includes some of our microwave bacon lines. Patrick Cudahy has provided extensive training for its employees to maintain an excellent workplace safety record and has received numerous safety and environmental awards throughout the years for safeguarding workers and the surrounding community.

An investigation into the cause of the fire has been launched and more information will be provided as soon as available.

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