



**Lac qui Parle County
Emergency Operations Center**
422 5th Avenue
Madison, MN 56256

March 22nd, 2023, 2:00am

Joint Media Release

Fire Causes Destruction of Midwest Machinery Building

(Madison, Minn.) A large fire broke out at the Midwest Machinery John Deere dealer in Madison, MN on Tuesday, March 21st, 2023. Law enforcement, fire, and ambulance crews were dispatched to the fire at approximately 7:12pm after reports of smoke came from a local caller. Mutual Aid was called for immediately by Madison Fire, including pumper trucks and firefighting crews from the surrounding municipalities who all helped to control the blaze. A local gas line was also ruptured feeding the flames and making it difficult to fight for a couple hours.

The immediate homes and apartments in the area were evacuated due to smoke and inhalation concerns from the fire plume (15 homes and two apartment complexes). A reunification center was set up at the Madison Mercantile, a local gathering spot, for evacuees to meet, make lodging plans, and receive updates from friends and family. The Emergency Operations Center was activated to help coordinate resources and supplies, enhance communication flow and decision-making, and organize public information. A citywide water restriction was requested by officials to help save the city storage supply for firefighting and is still active. MN-Hwy 40 was barricaded and closed for emergency vehicles along with Park Avenue to keep public out of harm's way. The smoke plume was reportedly able to be smelled by residents over 10 miles to the north of Madison.

Over 60 personnel responded to this incident including 23 different agencies and departments including: Madison Fire, Madison Ambulance, City of Madison, Lac qui Parle County Sheriff's Office, Lac qui Parle County Emergency Management, Countryside Public Health, Dawson Fire, Marietta Fire, Marietta Ambulance, Montevideo Fire, Ortonville Fire, Bellingham Fire, Appleton Fire, Canby Fire, Nassau Fire, Milan Fire, Boyd Fire, Odessa Fire, Big Stone Fire, Revillo Fire, Milbank Fire, Grant County SD Emergency Management and the Minnesota Highway Patrol.

At the time of this press release, the fire is completely under control and residents have been allowed to return to their homes with the smoke plume having subsided. Fire crews are remain working on locating hotspots and tearing down parts of the building. No injuries were reported.

The primary offices and shop building of Midwest Machinery have been deemed a total loss. The cause of the fire is not immediately known and is currently under investigation.

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[For Immediate Release]



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For questions on this press release, please contact:

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Incident Map:

