

STATE GAZETTE

Dyersburg Fire Dept. conducts Haz-Mat training at Ermco

Thursday, March 26, 2015



After identifying the leak during the mock drill, members of the DFD went through decontamination areas on Wednesday morning at Ermco. The drill was completed to better ready the firefighters should an actual emergency arise.



Members of the DFD work to remove the uniforms of fellow firefighters after the pair went through decontamination.

On Wednesday, members of the Dyersburg Fire Department performed annual in-service training involving hazardous materials. The training took place at the Ermco Three-Phase plant as members of the DFD participated in a mock drill in order to be prepared for the real thing should the situation arise.

DFD Capt. John Doyle, who went over the drill with those firemen in attendance, said while discussing to handle hazardous materials in a classroom setting was beneficial, actually being able to simulate an incident at a local industry like Ermco held greater value.

"In the classroom, during training, you get a lot of heads nodding that the men understand what we're talking about. However, being able to partner with a local industry in a mock drill of a leaking nitrogen tank with a downed employee makes it more real for all involved," said Capt. Doyle.

The exercise on Wednesday included identifying the hazardous material, as well as going through decontamination after stopping the leak of hazardous materials. The DFD provides a

Hazardous Materials Response Team to all local industries should there be a hazardous material leak like the one staged on Wednesday at Ermco.

The DFD has also partnered with the state Homeland Security to respond to all counties in West Tennessee falling under the District 9 umbrella in case of a hazardous material leak.



DFD Capt. John Doyle goes over the mock drill with members of the department prior to the start of the simulated hazardous material leak.

"This is just a good way to get out of the classroom and let our guys put their hands on the equipment that we will actually be using if one of these type incidents occur," added Capt. Doyle. "Also, I think we'll have a better understanding of the chemicals we'll be dealing with on a local level, and our guys will be ready to respond instead of being hesitant and not sure of what we are up against.

"We've been blessed to develop this partnership with Ermco and we really appreciate them for allowing us this opportunity to train on their property to get our guys familiar of how to respond to an actual emergency."