



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Portage Department
of Public Safety
Fire Division
Battalion Chief Foley
269-329-4491

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 15, 2015
Incident No. 667

The Portage Department of Public Safety Communications Center received a 9-1-1 call reporting a possible electrical fire at Zoetis, 7725 Portage Road. Employees reported that they could smell smoke. Upon evacuation of the building, employees reported seeing smoke from the roof area.

The Fire Division responded and could see light smoke coming from the roof. Firefighters gained access to the roof via a fire engine tower and discovered a fire near a roof hatch. Firefighters were able to quickly extinguish the fire. Overhaul of the area took about an hour to ensure no further extension of the fire.

Firefighters noticed what appeared to be a new roof in the area of the fire. Employees stated that a roofing crew had just finished that area around 5:00 p.m. Upon interviewing the roofing supervisor, firefighters learned that the roofers had used a heat gun to seal the roofing membrane, which possibly caused the fire.

Damage to the roof was estimated at \$2,500, while the loss to the contents has yet to be determined.

Portage received assistance at the scene from Comstock Fire Department and station staffing from Oshtemo and Texas Township Fire Departments.

#####