



# CITY OF LOCKPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT

## PRESS RELEASE

**Date/Time of Incident:** 3/4/2024 19:50 hours

**Type of Incident:** Commercial Equipment Fire

**Location:** 1 North Transit Rd. - VanDeMark Chemical

**Damage Estimate:** \$8,000 – Property. *Unable to accurately value content loss due to specialized nature.*

**Personnel:** 9 on duty personnel, Chief Quagliano, Safety Officer Loucks, Second Alarm assignment, Lockport Police, & Wrights Corners Fire Company (standby at fire headquarters).

**Narrative:** Niagara County dispatched LFD for a possible equipment fire with crews on site reporting a possible pump on fire initially. 9M10, E7, E6, T9, M62 responded under the direction of Assistant Chief Fredrickson. On arrival flames were visible on the upper exterior of the most westerly building on the property, on a pipe chase assembly. Plant crews had already extinguished the majority of the fire using on site hoses. The initial fire suppression crew, led by LT Lane, advanced a 1.75" hand line down an access road to complete the extinguishment and check for extension and hot spots. Upon speaking with crew members it was ascertained that a wrapped stainless steel pipe overheated and caused the outer covering of the pipe to ignite where it exits the buildings exterior wall. Approximately 500 gallons of water was used to extinguish the fire and cool the remainder of pipe. No other fire was discovered and most of the fire damage was contained to the pipe.

The pipe was feeding cleaning media to a nearby tank in preparation for a new production run.

On site crews followed all applicable plant shut down and emergency procedures and simultaneously notified 911 for assistance.

No injuries to plant or fire personnel were reported during this incident.

Crews operated on scene for approximately 1.5 hours.

**Fire Cause:** The fire is believed to be accidental in nature. Investigators were still on scene at the time of this press release.