Frequently Asked Questions: Tuscaloosa, AL Fire – June 1, 2019

Q: What happened, and do you know the root cause of the fire?
A: On Friday afternoon, May 31, 2019, a fire ignited at a small storage building located at KMG Bernuth’s Tuscaloosa, AL facility. KMG Bernuth employees and the Tuscaloosa fire department quickly contained the fire. While we believe non-hazardous waste materials that were stored in the storage facility for recycling purposes may have been the source of the fire, at this time the cause is still under investigation.

Q: Does this facility produce chemicals? If so, what types of chemicals?
A: The Tuscaloosa facility processes certain wood treatment preservatives for further resale to KMG Bernuth customers. There are no chemicals produced at the Tuscaloosa facility.

Q: Was anyone hurt? Was there any threat to the local community?
A: No, there were no injuries related to this fire. The fire was isolated to the small storage building and there was no threat to the local community from the fire.

Q: What are the environmental impacts from the fire and are there any impacts to the local community?
A: While the fire is still under investigation, at this time we do not believe that there is an environmental impact resulting from the fire. We are working with site leaders and local and federal environmental agencies to monitor and assess any impact. If we identify an environmental impact resulting from the fire, we intend to address it.

Q: How will an incident like this be avoided in the future?
A: KMG Bernuth intends to implement process changes, particularly related to the storage of waste materials, at the Tuscaloosa facility to minimize the likelihood of this type of event occurring in the future.

Q: Will this fire impact the current or future operations of the facility?
A: The facility is expected to be back in full operation no later than June 6, 2019. With respect to the facility itself, KMG Bernuth’s primary focus is the proper and professional clean-up of fire debris and confirming that there is no damage to process equipment.

Q: Will KMG contact regulatory authorities about this incident?
A: Yes, KMG-Bernuth immediately contacted the required local, State and Federal authorities pursuant to regulatory requirements. KMG-Bernuth also intends to reach out to local community leaders to discuss the incident and questions they may have.