

KEARNEY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELEASE

Date of Fire 24 May 2023 Alarm Tim 18:06 Under Control 18:48
Location of Fire 4200 East Highway 30 Type of Emergency Industrial Fire
Possible Cause Under Investigation Number of Firefighters _____
Number Type of Trucks 2 Engines, 2 Ladder Trucks, 2 Utility Trucks
Occupant _____
Owner _____ Address _____

Does residence have a smoke alarm(s)? Yes No Unknown Not Applicable

Was the smoke alarm(s) working? Yes No Unknown Not Applicable

If no, reason smoke alarm(s) were not working: Battery Dead Battery missing or disconnected

Hardwired detector unplugged or shut off Fire too small to activate detector Other

Details The Kearney Volunteer Fire Department (KVFD) was dispatched to an industrial fire at Eaton's Corporation, 4200 East Highway 30. Upon arrival KVFD crews found heavy black smoke coming from the roof and exterior doors of the west side of the facility and employees in the process of evacuation. The first arriving Engine established a water supply and the crew pulled handlines and made entry into the facility. The crews initiated fire attack and a primary search. The fire was found and extinguished. Another crew gained access to the roof with a Ladder Truck and found that no fire had extended to the roof. Fire Command made contact with Eaton's management and verified that all employees had evacuated and were accounted for. Eaton's management and maintenance personnel assisted KVFD in identifying and isolating the power to the affected area and shutting down the sprinkler system, which had been activated by the fire. Prior to KVFD's arrival, Eaton employees attempted to extinguish the fire, until the conditions deteriorated and they were forced to evacuate. Two Eaton's employees were evaluated by Good Samaritan EMS for smoke inhalation. No other injuries were reported and no personnel were transported to the hospital. The fire origin and cause remains under investigation. However, the initial investigation indicates that the fire started in a seat grinder and spread to a mist collector. The fire was mostly contained to the area of these two machines. Other agencies who responded and assisted KVFD was Good Samaritan EMS, Buffalo County Sheriff's Office, and Nebraska Public Power District.