

Harris County  
**HCPHES**  
Public Health & Environmental Services

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**WHEN:**

At approximately 2:19 p.m.

**WHAT:**

An employee of Nailor Industries punctured a 55 gallon drum containing hydrobromic acid solution when unloading a supply truck. While attempting to remove a pallet with four drums, the employee stuck the forklift through the side of one of the drums. It is believed an estimated 40 gallons of hydrobromic acid fell on the floor of the warehouse.

**PATIENT TRANSPORT:**

Harris County Emergency Services District 1 coordinated the transport of approximately 40 persons to area hospitals. All persons transported reported respiratory symptoms and were sent to area hospitals for treatment and observation. In addition, 2 of those transported potentially suffered burns from the exposure. Those persons who were transported to hospitals underwent decontamination prior to transport.

Harris County Emergency Services District 1 conducted triage on four separate occasions to assure that everyone who indicated they had symptoms was transported to an area hospital. All persons at the scene were offered transport to area hospitals whether or not they reported symptoms. Those who remained on site were sheltered in air-conditioned Metro buses until Harris County Haz Mat cleared the scene.

**HEALTH EFFECTS:**

- Skin contact can potentially result in severe burns.
- Inhalation can potentially result in respiratory and circulatory distress and can potentially burn the digestive tract.

**CONTAINMENT:**

Harris County Haz Mat has controlled the release and contained the spill. It is believed that this release has not resulted in offsite impact.

A cleanup contractor has been hired by the company and is on scene.

(For more information, contact Rita Obey 713-439-6293, Sandy Kachur 713-439-6292, or Martha Garza 713-439-6193)