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TUCSON



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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **TFD HAZ MAT CREWS RESPOND TO FREON LEAK MAINTENANCE BEING PERFORMED WHEN LEAK OCCURRED**

Dispatch Time –12:16 P.M.  
On-Scene Time - 12:20 P.M  
Leak Secured –12:48 P.M.

Tucson Fire Department hazardous materials crews were dispatched to the 1200 block of West Silverlake at the Pima County Jail for a Freon leak in which no injuries were reported. Maintenance crews were working on units on the roof under the impression that the Freon had been drained. When they opened up a valve, it became apparent that Freon was still in the system. Hazardous Materials crews arrived and took safety precautions to identify the substance that had leaked. The actual gas that leaked was Dichlorodifluoromethane. It is a colorless gas, usually sold under the brand name of Freon. Once units determined what leaked, they ensured the leak was secured and then used electric smoke ejectors, fans, to remove any residual Freon. Freon is heavier than air and settles in lower areas so multiple fans had to be used to remove the gas. TFD units performed air monitoring throughout the call at various locations. The jail staff had made all necessary evacuations on their end prior to the arrival of TFD units.

**Safety Message:** The most common symptoms seen from an acute exposure to Freon are dizziness, drowsiness, and sometimes an irregular heartbeat. Removing yourself from the area is first and foremost if exposed. If you ever suspect a Freon leak, err on the side of caution and call for emergency services.

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