

CITY OF DETROIT

News Release

Water and Sewerage Department

Dave Bing, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAFETY MEASURES KICK IN DURING POWER DROP AT WWTP

Safety measures were automatically put into operation this morning after a power drop caused the electrical system to trip at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) officials said today.

The incident, which took place at the plant's chlorination facility about 9:40 a.m., was caused by a contractor working on the upgrade of the UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) System at the facility. The resulting power drop caused a 20-minute pause in the chlorination process. Chlorine is used to disinfect effluent.

"No chlorine was released into the environment and there were no injuries to any workers," said Mary P. Alfonso, Public Affairs Manager. "The system worked exactly as it was designed to work in that situation."

Officials said that a scrubber system was activated during the power drop, which neutralized and contained the chlorine and prevented it from leaking outdoors to the atmosphere.

Details of the incident will be reported to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, as required by law.

DWSD supplies high-quality drinking water to Detroit and 126 communities in southeast Michigan. The Department provides wastewater services to Detroit and 76 other southeast Michigan communities.

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