



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of entry 12/16/2014

Greg BROSCH, Sergeant, Rosemont Public Safety Department, 9501 W. Devon, Rosemont, Illinois, 60018, telephone [REDACTED] was interviewed by telephone. After being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview, BROSCH provided the following information:

BROSCH is the team leader of the Rosemont Public Safety Department Hazardous Materials Team. On December 7, 2014, at approximately 12:30 a.m., members of the Rosemont Public Safety Department, including the Police and Fire Departments, responded to a complaint of a suspicious odor originating from the ninth floor of the Hyatt Regency O'Hare Hotel ("Hyatt Regency"), located at 9300 Bryn Mawr, Rosemont, Illinois. The complaint had been called in by an auxiliary member of the Rosemont Public Safety Department who was working private security for the Hyatt Regency that night. BROSCH responded to this call.

At the Hyatt Regency, BROSCH smelled a strong odor of chlorine. BROSCH used a chlorine meter, specifically calibrated to detect chlorine in the air, which gave an initial reading of 1.4 parts per million (PPM). Normal breathing air should typically contain 0.0 PPM. The chlorine meter used by BROSCH will alarm at a concentration of 0.5 PPM. At a level of 0.5 PPM, standard fire department procedure would be to consider evacuating the area. At a level of 1.0 PPM, standard fire department procedure provides that the responders should use their self contained breathing apparatus.

By using the chlorine meter, BROSCH was lead to the stairwell on the ninth floor. This was the stairs between floors, which would not normally be used by guests at the hotel. On the stair landing between the ninth and tenth floors, BROSCH saw a broken glass Mason jar. The broken glass Mason jar appeared to contained a white, powdery substance, and there was liquid on the ground around the jar. When BROSCH was standing over the broken Mason jar, the chlorine meter read 60 PPM. The chlorine meter then read

Investigation on 12/07/2014 at Rosemont, Illinois, United States (Phone)

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by [REDACTED]

"OL", which meant Outside Limits which indicates that the level of chlorine gas present was above the capacity of the chlorine meter to determine. BROSCH believed that at a concentration of 60 PPM of chlorine, a person could expect to be incapacitated within 20 or 30 minutes, but BROSCH was not sure of the exact time to be overcome. Chlorine gas is considered a corrosive, and can chemically burn exposed areas of moist skin or tissue. Chlorine gas can harm people's lungs, and can burn moist areas, such as the face, armpits or groin if exposed. The powder and liquid were eating into the paint on the floor. The liquid near the Mason jar was yellow-green in color, and was running down the wall towards the 8th floor.

BROSCH stated that chlorine can come in a powder, a liquid, or a tablet, and can be purchased without any can of special permit.

BROSCH attempted to test the powdery substance from the broken Mason jar with a HazMat Identification Machine. The first reading from the machine only gave a 63% level of accuracy, then gave an error message when subsequent tests were attempted. BROSCH was unable to make a conclusive determination on the scene of the exact type of powder used in the Mason jar. BROSCH believes the substance was chlorine gas based on the smell, the powder being consistent with what BROSCH knows chlorine looks like, the corrosive effect on the painted floor, the symptoms displayed by the victims, and BROSCH hearing witnesses state that it smelled like a swimming pool. The Hyatt Regency does not have a swimming pool. Chlorine in powder or tablet can react with certain liquids and form a gas.

The glass Mason jar appeared to be an approximate 30 ounce container. BROSCH only observed one Mason jar at the location. BROSCH did not see any label on the jar, nor did he find any written notes or other items at the scene. BROSCH did not see anything that indicated the identity of the individual responsible for leaving the Mason jar in the stairwell.

BROSCH and his team decided to evacuate the entire Hyatt Regency. BROSCH and his partner searched the surrounding floors for any victims, and entered into approximately 10 rooms in close proximity to the stairwell. BROSCH did not observe anything in the guest rooms that he searched that appeared to be related to the event. BROSCH knows that over 40 people were treated and evaluated by Rosemont Emergency Medical Services, and at least nineteen people were transported by Rosemont EMS to local hospitals for treatment. The injuries suffered by the victims were consistent with exposure to chlorine, and included vomiting, burning throats, dizziness and shortness of breath.