



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

During routine procedures of taking delivery of a large cylinder of chlorine gas, a release of 19 pounds of gaseous chlorine occurred from a near empty cylinder being returned. An immediate assessment of the limited release indicated that it was contained within the immediate facility location and no public evacuation was necessary.

The release was atmospheric. The release did not affect the drinking water. There are no water quality issues of concern and at no time was water quality to the District's customers compromised. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has been contacted as well as the National Spill Response.

While performing the routine process, an employee completing the operation was in contact with the release of gaseous chlorine and was taken to a medical facility for evaluation as a safety process and precautionary action. The employee has subsequently been released. The employee, while performing the task, was wearing an appropriate respirator and was accompanied by a safety person during the process.

The use of chlorine gas is a common water treatment plant process important for the disinfection of the potable water. The process of exchanging chlorine cylinders is a routine activity at the Clifton Water District Water Treatment Facility. The details of the event are currently being investigated to determine if procedural or equipment functions need to be evaluated and revised.

Chlorine is a dangerous chemical and it is not handled carelessly at the District. During the event, the Clifton Fire Department and the City of Grand Junction Hazmat Response Team were contacted and briefed of the situation. Once the release was determined to be minor and contained at the facilities, the opportunity was taken to continue as a training exercise. The Hazmat Response Team entered the facility and completed the isolation of the chlorine cylinder and secured the site.

If you have any questions please contact the Clifton Water District Office at 434-7328.