

October 17, 2012

Hardy Industrial Technologies Moves Ahead Optimistically After Fire

A letter to the residents and businesses of Painesville Township

As most of you probably know, a fire started on the morning of October 11 at our Hardy Industrial Technologies plant on Hardy Road. First and foremost, we're so grateful that no one in the company or community was seriously injured.

Hardy is a [Magnus International Group](#) company that employs about 40 workers at the plant, a dozen of whom were in the building that caught fire. This is where we make natural animal feed ingredients from renewable materials. Hardy also manufactures natural waxes, and alternative solid and liquid fuels.

Our employees were quick to implement our emergency action plan to safely evacuate the building. We're extremely thankful to Painesville Township fire chief Frank Whittaker and his fast-acting department and to the fire teams from nearby communities that worked tirelessly to ensure things remained contained.

Early on, officials determined it best to let the vegetable oil fire mostly burn out on its own. Our sincere thanks goes to the Lubrizol Corporation for providing the foam that helped tackle the initial fire. On October 13 in the late afternoon, a high-expansion foam was applied to extinguish the last few spot fires.

We were also very fortunate to have the onsite support of the Salvation Army and Red Cross. All of the first responders, city and government officials, and community representatives were, and continue to be, really supportive.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, but throughout it, the smoke did not pose a threat to the community or the environment. Damage was contained to the solid animal feed production side of our operation. Our ability to produce liquid animal feed ingredients, waxes and fuels remains largely unchanged. The day after the fire, power and water were restored to the facility, and our employees reentered the site to get business underway again.

Hardy is a safety-first organization that was recently awarded FSSC 22000 certification, the leading, worldwide standard for animal feed and plant safety and quality. Maintaining this high standard continues to require us to demonstrate superior quality systems and safety programs. This has been a cornerstone of our [award-winning success strategy](#).

This is Magnus' first industrial incident at the plant, which has been OSHA-compliant and violation-free since we moved Hardy into the space in 2007.

As trying as this experience has been, we were spared from greater losses and will remember that every time we face a lesser challenge during the rebuilding process. We

are moving ahead with the same virtues, high spirits and optimism upon which the company was founded. Magnus is working vigorously to take all the right steps and measures to ensure continued people, plant and product safety.

We pledge to make Hardy Industrial Technologies an even stronger leader in natural products manufacturing and distribution. Our best days are ahead, and we look forward to being a chamber member and corporate citizen you can continue to proudly call your neighbor.

All our gratitude,

Eric Lofquist

Owner/President/CEO

Scott Forster

Owner/Vice President/COO