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Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Kills Two ADM Workers

USAgNet - 02/13/2008

Two veteran Archer Daniels Midland Co. employees died late Sunday of apparent carbon monoxide poisoning and 16 other employees were sickened by the gas following a fire in an air handling unit at ADM's Decatur corn processing plant.

The deceased were identified Monday by Macon County Coroner Michael E. Day as Charles M. Newgard, 55, a corn plant laboratory technician supervisor, and Jeffrey S. Miller, 46, a corn plant laboratory technician, both of Decatur. Newgard had been with ADM for 33 years and Miller for 17 years.

Day said Miller died at 11:10 p.m. Sunday at Decatur Memorial Hospital and Newgard died at 11:43 p.m. at St. Mary's Hospital.

Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration personnel were at ADM on Monday for an initial evaluation, ADM Vice President Randy Kampfe of the Corn Processing Group said during a news conference at the firm's James R. Randall Research Center late Monday afternoon. The company is cooperating fully, he said.

Nick Walters, director of OSHA's Peoria area office, said the agency has six months to complete such an investigation but likely could finish prior to that time.

Of the 16 additional employees taken to local hospitals, 15 were treated and released and one continued to receive medical attention, Kampfe said.

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