



# PRESS RELEASE

City of Visalia Fire Department

*"Established and Serving with Pride since 1869"*

Released: April 6, 2022

Contact: Battalion Chief Darrin Hughes  
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## Unidentified Package Prompts Evacuation of Business

At 12:43 P.M. on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, Visalia Fire personnel were dispatched to a possible hazardous materials incident located in the block of 300 North West Street. Upon arrival of the first fire unit, they were met with employees in which one was exposed to an unknown substance. Visalia personnel attended to one patient who refused medical treatment after he had washed his hands and arms prior to our arrival. Fire personnel then started to set up a hazardous material incident with additional fire resources. Initial actions included evacuating the business of the on-duty employees and closing School Street between West Street and Floral Street for parking fire apparatus.

During the incident hazardous material personnel made multiple entries to retrieve samples of the unknown substance that was located inside an unidentified package. Testing was completed on scene and will be conducted at the Tulare County Public Health lab. The business will remain closed until the unknown substance can be subjected to another testing screening process and determined non-hazardous.

Two engines, one hazardous material unit, and two Chief Officers responded to the incident for a total of 17 personnel. Tulare County Environmental Health and Visalia Police Department also assisted with the incident.

No civilian or fire personnel injuries were reported.

Approved By: Darrin Hughes, Battalion Chief