



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:**

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**DECEMBER 15, 2022**

**680 MARYLAND AVENUE, BURLINGTON, WI**

**CITY OF BURLINGTON, WI.** – On Thursday, December 15, 2022, at approximately 07:53 hours, The City of Burlington Fire Department and Police Department responded to a report of a fire in the fuel bay at 680 Maryland Avenue. An additional unit from the Town of Burlington Fire Department also responded on the initial call. Rochester Volunteer Fire Company responded to an EMS call for the city during this incident. Fire/EMS units arrived on scene within minutes and reported smoke coming from the rear of a metal clad pole building on the property. Fire crews were able to cut into the building and extinguish the fire. Ventilation was conducted and 4 battery packs from hybrid vehicles were found where the fire originated. The battery packs were off-gassing and fire crews used hose lines to cool the battery packs and prevent them from going into thermal runaway. The staff of the facility used a forklift to place the battery packs into a dumpster of water to keep them cool. They will be monitored for the next 7 days to ensure they do not go into thermal runaway. Overhaul was completed at approximately 09:17 hours. We Energies also responded by providing support.

No occupants were in the building at the time of the incident. The City of Burlington Fire Department is investigating to determine the cause of the fire. Damage estimates are not available at the time of this release as the fire remains under investigation.

\*\*\*UPDATE\*\*\*

On Friday, December 16, 2022, Engineers from MGA Research joined the fire investigator on the scene. The batteries were removed from vehicles over 6 weeks ago and had been in storage. It is unknown if there was damage done to the batteries prior to removal from the vehicles. The batteries were examined, and it was determined that the batteries self-ignited for an unknown reason, starting the fire. Damage to the building is estimated at \$2,000.00.

\*\*\*END\*\*\*