



# Andover Fire Rescue

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MEDIA RELEASE  
For Immediate release

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At 10:36 hours Andover Fire Rescue personnel were dispatched to a report that a white powdery substance had just been released from an envelope in the mail processing room at the Internal Revenue Service building located at 310 Lowell Road in Andover.

Upon arrival IRS security personnel indicated that a substance had fallen to the floor of the mail processing room that had approximately 30 employees working in it. The IRS facilities emergency response plan was activated by supervisors within the facility.

The mail processing room was placed in a lock down mode and the incident was isolated from the remainder of the building which had approximately 1000 employees occupying it at the time of the incident.

The Division of Fire Services District 6 Hazardous Materials Response Team was requested and responded to the scene to assist in the incident investigation and mitigation process.

At approximately 12:30 hrs. the thirty employees that were isolated in the mail processing room were allowed to leave the building and after an instruction briefing were allowed to return home.

The briefing to the employees explained the ongoing event and the necessary precautions that had taken place by emergency personnel and precautionary measures that they needed to take once home.

At approximately 13:30 hrs, members of the hazardous materials team entered the IRS mail processing area to begin looking for the source of the powdery substance and discovered that several envelopes that were in the employees hand at the time of the release were placed in a mail tote and there was evidence of a white substance found on the floor.

The envelopes were examined by hazardous materials technicians and it was determined that there was no correlation between the white substance and the mail in the processing area. There was no threat received or any evidence of a threat found in the involved mail.

The powdery substance was analyzed on scene and was preliminarily determined to be that of a prescription drug.

The incident was brought under control at approximately 14:45 hrs.

There were no reported injuries.

The remainder of the substance was recovered and sent to the state laboratory for further analysis and definitive identification.

Andover Fire Rescue personnel were assisted by several local, state, and federal agencies.

