

Roseland Explosion Prompts Evacuations, No Injuries

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ROSELAND, La. Authorities are investigating an explosion at Smitty's Supply in Roseland, Louisiana, that prompted mandatory evacuations within a one-mile radius on Friday, Aug. 22.

Tangipahoa Parish President Robby Miller said the first emergency call came in just before 1 p.m., and evacuation alerts were issued shortly after 1:15 p.m. No injuries have been

reported.

“The best news we have is that as of right now, there have been no injuries in this event,” Miller said.

Smitty’s Supply, an automotive manufacturing facility employing approximately 400 people, was the site of the blast. Officials have not yet determined the cause of the explosion.

“We are doing our best to protect people, structures, and the environment. The information that we get, we will share with citizens as soon as possible,” Miller added.

Residents within the evacuation zone reported that the blast shook homes and rattled belongings. Trenesha Anderson, who lives in the area and whose brother works at Smitty’s, described the incident: “It shook my house, and it shook all the pictures on the wall. I could literally feel the ground shake.”

After confirming her brother was safe, Anderson gathered essentials and went to the Amite Community Center, which the parish established as a shelter for displaced residents.

Following the explosion, some residents reported black residue falling from the sky. First responders believe the material is oil. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is monitoring air quality for potential health risks.

“To have it all in the air, on your cars, on your clothes, standing outside, you don’t know what kind of chemicals are in the air now,” Anderson said.

Officials have not provided a timeline for when residents can safely return to their homes.

Smitty’s Supply, founded in 1960, is one of the largest privately owned oil manufacturing companies in the United States. The company produces and distributes automotive lubricants, including Super S motor oil, hydraulic fluid, antifreeze, and related products.

Authorities continue to investigate the cause of the explosion and monitor the situation for potential environmental and health impacts.