



City of South Haven

City Hall • 539 Phoenix Street • South Haven, Michigan 49090-1499

Telephone (269) 637-0700

For Immediate Release

Contact: South Haven Police Department
(269) 637-5151

City of South Haven and SHAES Provide Update On East Jordan Plastics Fire and Widespread Power Outage

South Haven, Michigan, September 26, 2026 – The City of South Haven and South Haven Area Emergency Services (SHAES), along with neighboring fire and public safety departments, responded to an industrial fire at the East Jordan Plastics facility yesterday afternoon. Firefighters remained on the scene until it was cleared during the 6 a.m. hour this morning.

It took approximately four hours to determine the fire was fully contained. SHAES Fire Chief Brandon Hinz reports that during the incident, the right decisions to protect human life and prevent additional damage were taken. This included de-powering a nearby electrical plant connected to power lines impacted by the fire, and detouring traffic away from the scene.

The City is grateful that no one was hurt, and power was restored as quickly as possible, at approximately 10:30 p.m. The safe removal of material and debris has already begun.

“I simply can’t say enough about every person, department, community member and business that supported us as we responded to this fire,” said Hinz. “There were 17 fire departments in all, and we also received an outpouring of assistance from the American Red Cross, the Van Buren County Emergency Operations Center, and so many others. I’m extremely proud of how we came together to protect and care for each other, responders on the scene, and our neighbors.”

South Haven Chief of Police Adam DeBoer assures the community that this is an isolated incident and there is no danger to the public. The area of Blue Star Highway and Stieve Drive is reopened for travel.

In the weeks ahead, the City will work alongside the company and several authoritative agencies to determine the cause of the fire; the proper site remediation steps; and the environmental impact, if any. These organizations include:

- Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE)
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Michigan State Police Fire Investigation Unit
- The South Haven Electric Department, Michigan Public Power Agency and American Electric Power

- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Environmental Health Division

The City asks for patience as it will be weeks before more is known.

“The most important thing is that no one was injured and that the precautionary measures we took to protect the community did just that,” said Chief DeBoer.

Updated:

As of Saturday, September 26 at 2:00 p.m., the EPA began posting its air quality readings for the nearby area at https://response.epa.gov/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=17451

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