



# PRESS RELEASE

City of Visalia Fire Department

Released: December 28, 2013

Contact: Battalion Chief Darrin Hughes  
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## Possible Picric Acid Detonated at City Corporation Yard

On Saturday, December 28, 2013 at 10:58 a.m. the Visalia Fire Department was contacted by a representative from the County Household Hazardous Materials Waste disposal site located at the City of Visalia Corporation Yard, 335 N. Cain Street, that a citizen brought in a glass container of possible crystallized picric acid. Picric acid is primarily used in laboratories as a chemical reagent and mixed with water as a desensitizer. When this material is dried out it can be highly sensitive to heat, shock, or friction. Due to the potential explosive nature of this unconfirmed material it was determined to detonate the material on site to dispose of it. Members of the Visalia Police Department, Fire Department, and the Tulare County Explosive Ordnance Disposal team were notified to assist with the mitigation of the incident. The material was buried and then detonated and no further action was taken. The hazardous materials waste disposal site was reopened and returned to normal operations.

One fire truck, one hazardous materials unit, and one Battalion Chief responded for a total of 4 fire personnel. There were no injuries caused by this incident.

Approved By: Darrin Hughes, Battalion Chief

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