



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District *of* Greater Chicago

Press Release

Allison Fore

Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer

312.751.6626

allison.fore@mwrdd.org

100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

For immediate release

December 13, 2018

Calumet WRP roof collapse report released

Investigations into the roof collapse of the sludge concentration building at the MWRD's Calumet Water Reclamation Plant (CWRP) have been completed. The external investigation was performed by Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. and the MWRD conducted its own internal investigation.

The probable ignition source for the explosion was a torch flame or striker used during a planned maintenance operation. The MWRD is still evaluating future plans for the section of the building that collapsed; however, the CWRP remains in full operation.

Of the eight MWRD employees involved in the explosion, four returned to work and four are continuing to recover. The District appreciates the City of Chicago emergency responders for their expertise in rescuing and treating our workers.

Since the explosion, the MWRD has conducted District-wide safety retraining for employees working in the water reclamation plants.

At the time of the explosion, the MWRD had excess casualty insurance and was self-insured for property damage.

Click [here](#) to read the reports.

###

Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrdd.org) is an award winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.