

News Release

Successful large-scale exercise at Oxea in Oberhausen: Rescue services and fire brigade rehearse case of emergency

Monheim am Rhein, Germany, September 21, 2019 – A large-scale exercise of the fire brigades and rescue services took place in Oberhausen on September 21. The global chemical company Oxea made its site available for this large-scale exercise. In close cooperation between the Oberhausen fire brigades, rescue organisations and Oxea, an accident situation was simulated, a so-called mass casualty incident (MCI). In the scenario, an assumed deflagration occurred at a technical centre. Over 30 persons with realistic make-up had to be rescued by the fire brigades and then cared for by the rescue services. A great challenge for all involved was the realistic exercise during the ongoing operation of the Oxea plant. Approximately 110 emergency personnel with 38 emergency vehicles took part in this major exercise. Representatives of the district government were on site as observers. Numerous guests were impressed by the efficiency of the task forces. Catering for some 150 people was provided by the Oxea factory canteen on that day.

“An MCI exercise is a great challenge for all rescue forces. To be effective, the alarm and reporting chains and, in particular, the communication between fire brigades, rescue services and the site had to function perfectly. Despite the difficult situation in the exercises, the targeted planning of stress factors and the many different participants, communication and cooperation between each other worked very well. We all learned a lot in the process,” said Jörg Lange-Hegermann from the Oberhausen professional fire brigade.

Wilhelm Schuster, head of the plant fire brigade at Oxea-Werk Ruhrchemie, expressed his thanks to the professional and volunteer fire brigades of Oberhausen and Oxea as well as to the rescue services of the aid organisations for their great work. “For Oxea the security of our neighbours and guests as well as our coworkers has highest priority. Therefore, we support such exercises to the best of our ability, because they secure the successful cooperation of the rescue organizations. Our team around Frank Taube prepared this exercise together with all units involved nearly one year in advance, in order to ensure the best possible success,” he summarized it.

Pictures of the major exercise: www.oxea-chemicals.com/uebung2019

About Oxea

Oxea is a global manufacturer of oxo intermediates and oxo derivatives, such as alcohols, polyols, carboxylic acids, specialty esters, and amines. These products are used for the production of high-quality coatings, lubricants, cosmetics and pharmaceutical products, flavorings and fragrances, printing inks and plastics. Oxea employs more than 1,400 people worldwide.

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