

National Semi worker burned in acid spill

861

Mercury News Staff Report

A National Semiconductor Corp. employee suffered chemical burns when an unknown quantity of hydrofluoric acid spilled at the Santa Clara company.

David Vossbrink, a company spokesman, identified the worker as Conrad Magtoto, but refused to give any other details.

A Santa Clara Fire Department spokesman said Magtoto suffered burns on his face, neck and ears Monday night. He said another National employee thought he had come in contact with the acid while trying to assist Magtoto. But the second worker, identified as Gene Soriano, was not harmed.

The fire department spokesman had no other information on either man.

A hospital spokeswoman confirmed Tuesday that the two had been treated at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center and released, but said she had no information on how badly they were injured.

"It looks as if they were sent back to their work place, where doctors would have more experience in dealing with chemical burns than we would," the VMC spokeswoman said.

Chemical specialist Larry Monette of the Santa Clara Fire Department, who responded to the accident, said the spill occurred about 8 p.m. Monday in Building A of the complex at 2900 Semiconductor Drive.

He said Magtoto — clad in a plastic apron, a safety visor and protective gloves — was transferring the dangerous chemical from large storage tanks into one-gallon containers.

Monette said the task was performed at a work station that has four hoses attached to a bar hanging overhead, and the accident occurred when the bar snapped, causing the hoses to break loose and spray acid on Magtoto.

He said Soriano rushed to Magtoto's aid from his own work area nearby.

Vossbrink, the National Semiconductor spokesman, said both workers were given showers to dilute the acid and were taken to Valley Medical Center.

The acid, a 49 percent solution, was cleaned up by the Santa Clara Fire Department and National's in-house emergency response team, which diluted and neutralized the acid before mopping it up.