



Town of Wallkill Police Department

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
January 3, 2015

Incident: Movie Theater Evacuation
Location: AMC Loews Galleria Metroplex 16, 1 Galleria Drive, Town of Wallkill
Date/Time: January 2, 2015/3:36 pm

On Friday, January 2, 2015, at approximately 3:36 pm, officers from this Department responded to a request to “Assist Fire Department” at the AMC Loews Galleria Metroplex 16, 1 Galleria Drive. When officers arrived on the scene, they were met by members of the Mechanicstown Fire Department. The Fire Department reported that smoke had accidentally entered into the movie theater while a contractor was performing work on a rooftop ventilation unit. The several hundred patrons who were viewing movies in sixteen different theaters, were evacuated without any reported injuries. The theatergoers were able to reenter the building within 1 hour, after Town of Wallkill Building Inspector Charles Russell, determined that there was no further threat from the defective ventilation unit. It is noteworthy that the Town of Wallkill Office of Emergency Management (OEM), under Co-Directors Chief Hertman and Lou Ingrassia Jr., along with Coordinator Joe Andre, has been working alongside of the Towns OEM partners to address these types of incidents. Most recently, on November 23, 2014, the OEM conducted a mock disaster and evacuation drill at the Galleria. The drill and other regular meetings with our OEM partners, has forged a positive working relationship among stakeholders, which in turn led to yesterday’s orderly evacuation of the patrons at the movie theater.

Robert C. Hertman
Chief of Police

-###-