

Fire Alarm at DMH

Statement 2/6/17

Media contact: Ember Davis, Director of Marketing (870) 460-4871 or edavis@drewmemorial.org

Visitors to Drew Memorial Hospital on the afternoon of February 2 were asked to wait outside until an “all clear” order was given. The fire alarms throughout the hospital were triggered when smoke from the demolition area spread throughout the original hospital facility, just behind the main entrance. During demolition of the former main entrance canopy, a cutting torch was used on the steel canopy beams. All proper safety procedures were followed but insulation smoldered inside the main entrance ceiling, within the demolition area, leading to smoke spreading beyond the demolition area. Smoke damage was limited to the adjacent gift shop, and no other damage occurred outside the designated demolition area. Visitors and guests to the hospital were evacuated per hospital safety protocol once the fire alarms sounded. Hospital staff were ready to evacuate patients if an emergent situation arose, but an “all clear” was given within a half hour of the initial alarm. At no time was there concern of fire spreading and no patients or employees were at risk. Hospital administration would like to thank Monticello Fire Department for their assistance.

###