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TERRELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

955 Forrester Drive, S.E. • P.O. Box 525 • 229-995-4476

DAWSON, GEORGIA 39842

Subject: press release

Terrell County Commission Chairman W. T. Gamble III announced, on behalf of the entire Terrell County Commission, extreme appreciation for all the assistance rendered by so many agencies and individuals in fighting the almost disastrous fire that struck Tyson Foods plant located in Terrell County last week. Mr. Gamble stated, " The fire that disabled the Tyson Foods plant last week was tragic in that it will close the plant for a period of time effecting the livelihood of the many employees of the facility. It could have been a much greater tragedy, however, were it not for the assistance of so many. First and foremost, I wish to commend the management and employees of Tyson for their prompt response to this emergency, the safe evacuation of all employees without injury, and the immediate attention to the issue at hand. Tyson met with our Emergency Services Team well in advance of this particular incident and established a pre hazard mitigation protocol that was very effective, and efficient, when the time came to implement the plan. I would also like to think that Terrell County would rise to the occasion and assist neighboring counties in the event of a major emergency, but I'm happy to say I know our neighbors will do so, because they did so on the night we called them for help. The favorable outcome would not have been possible without the assistance of The City of Americus Fire Department and their aerial truck, Albany Fire Department and Haz Mat team, Lee County Fire and Rescue Department, Lee State Prison Fire Department, Lagrange air vac helicopter, Americus air vac helicopter, Calhoun State Prison Fire Department and aerial truck and the Randolph County Fire Department. Our own agencies within the county were on the front line and performed above all expectations. My special thanks to Bo Hamby, head of our Emergency Management Team and all the EMS support staff. Mr. Hamby was on top of things from beginning to end and is owed a great debt of gratitude. The entire EMS was outstanding. Thanks to the Terrell County Sheriff's Department, Dawson Police Department, Dawson Public Works and Dawson Fire Department. These agencies kept matters orderly, informed the public in areas of needed evacuation, and the Dawson Fire Department was one of the first on the scene, at great risk to their own person and property. Our own Terrell County Fire Department performed to the highest of standards and I'm proud to know they are part of Terrell Counties emergency team. Terrell County remains ready to assist Tyson in all ways possible to assist them in the recovery and reopening of the plant. Again my sincerest thanks to all those who made great personal sacrifices to ensure the positive outcome of a very dangerous situation. "