

PINE BLUFF COMMERCIAL

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Saturday, December 13, 2014

134th Year, No. 205

16 Pages

75¢

Central Moloney plans to continue operations despite fire

By Ray King OF THE COMMERCIAL STAFF

Despite an early morning fire Friday at Central Moloney at 2400 W. Sixth Ave., company Executive Vice-President Chris Hart said the plant will continue to operate.

"It's going to force us into a situation that's less than ideal, but we're going to modify and continue to do what we do," Hart said.

Fire and Emergency Services Chief Sawn Howell said the fire was reported at 3:59 a.m. and the first arriving crews reported heavy smoke and fire coming from the northwest corner of the building (Fir Street side).

Hart said company officials are "still trying to figure out the ramifications" but said the fire affected only one primary department, which received what Hart called "substantial damage."

"It hasn't stopped us from shipping," Hart said, adding that company officials have not determined the cause of the fire.

"We were incredibly blessed in that there were no injuries that we know of, either to our people or to the fire and emergency services people that were out here," Hart said.

He said company officials will be assessing the damage Saturday and trying to decide what their next move will be.

"After we solidify that, we're going to get back to business," Hart said.

Firefighters were still on the scene just after 8 a.m. Friday but at that point, were rolling up their hoses and preparing to leave.

Central Moloney makes transformers and employs about 500 people, 425 of them at the plant West Sixth Avenue.