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For Immediate Release

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UPDATE #2: Fire at GEFI Building in Madison

As noted previously, no injuries were reported from this morning's fire and the cause of the fire is still unknown. We are evaluating the extent of the fire, and therefore, we do not know a total cost of damage at this time. DOA Facilities Management staff will continue to evaluate the extent of the damage in GEFI throughout the weekend and Monday, and we will have a better idea of how long it will take to repair and perform clean-up in the building after Tuesday, May 20.

Both Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and Department of Children and Families (DCF) staff are located in the GEFI building. The first, third and fourth floors are occupied by DWD, while the second floor houses DCF. There are approximately 1,000 employees total in the building.

To protect the health and safety of our employees, DWD and DCF staff will not be returning to the building until after the clean-up is complete and the ventilation system has been cleared. In addition, there will be no parking in the GEFI building until further notice because the ventilation system is connected throughout the building, including the parking garage.

DWD and DCF staff are working with their supervisors and managers to identify alternate locations for employees to work at, and which employees may be able to work from home during the building closure. In addition to relocating staff, we are working to ensure that all systems that provide critical customer service to the taxpayers of Wisconsin will continue to operate as we work through the challenges caused by the fire.

At this time, the services provided to customers by both DWD and DCF are still available. DWD and DCF's online services are not impacted, and all other DCF services are operating as normal. In addition, unemployment payments that were scheduled to be issued today by DWD have been processed.

Please note that the GEFI building was last inspected on December 6, 2013, and there were no violations. The building is due for its next inspection prior to June 30.

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