

PRESS RELEASE

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MRRA Issues “Root Cause” Report on Hangar 4 Event and Welcomes Public Feedback

(Brunswick, ME)- The Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority (“MRRA”) today to make publicly available the September 2025 root cause report prepared by Jack Poole and Poole Fire Protection, Inc. (the “Report”). An electronic copy of the Report is available upon email request directed to the contact email noted below. Mr. Poole and his firm were retained to prepare the Report in response to a community-wide desire to understand the source of the fire suppression system discharge on August 19, 2024, at Hangar 4 at the Brunswick Executive Airport. The MRRA board approved the commissioning of the Report because it sees understanding the “root cause” of the unwanted fire suppression system discharge as central to its ability to prospectively take measures directed towards averting similar events. The Brunswick Town Council fully supported and partially funded the engagement of Poole Fire Protection in the aftermath of the discharge.

While the Report is both lengthy and detailed, the Board regards the following aspects of the Report as particularly responsive to those objectives. First, as MRRA has disclosed previously, it has worked in consultation with Mr. Poole and other interest holders (including the Town of Brunswick and the office of the Maine State Fire Marshal) to remove all Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (“AFFF”) at all MRRA facilities. The Report’s conclusions do not identify any possible causes that have not already been addressed, and validate MRRA’s approach in that effort, and the MRRA board is satisfied that there are no further risk-mitigation efforts relative to AFFF that it needs to target at this time.

Second, MRRA regards the discussion at pages 25-27 as the heart of the report. That section focuses on a set of possible causes of the discharge, rejecting most as impossible or improbable, and identifying one possible cause—an internal fault in a particular electronic module—as the likely source of the unwanted discharge. MRRA will work closely with its professional advisors to assess next steps based on this information. However, because that module is no longer being used for any AFFF-based system, there is no risk of a repeat event in Hangar 4.

The MRRA welcomes questions related to the Report from the community and local governmental officials. MRRA’s desire is to create a forum where questions from interested parties focused on the Report’s conclusions and approach can be addressed. To that end, parties with questions about the Poole report are invited to send those questions, by **October 19th, 2025**, to MRRA at katheriner@mrra.us. MRRA will then work with Jack Poole and Poole Fire Protection to present a consolidated set of questions and answers during a session at MRRA’s board meeting on October 29, 2025.

