

Over 1,000 Flee Poisonous Cloud From Textile Plant in North Italy

TORVISCOSA, Italy, April 30 (AP) — More than a thousand people were evacuated from their homes overnight until a poisonous cloud from a textile plant had passed, authorities reported today.

In this northern Italian town near Udine, sulfuric anhydride leaked from a tank that had cracked because of overpressure at a plant of Italy's giant textile group Snia Viscosa, the authorities said. The chemical, also called sulfur trioxide, produces irritating toxic fumes, reacts violently with water to produce sulfuric acid and sets some materials afire on contact.

The residents were allowed to return to their homes after wind carried the cloud southward toward the Adriatic Sea. Nobody suffered any ill effects, the authorities said.

The Snia Viscosa plants here, from which the town takes its name, produce raw material for synthetic fibers.

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