

**“Statement From
Murray L. Katz, President
Of Empire Kosher Foods,
Concerning The Recent Fire
At Empire’s Mifflintown,
Pennsylvania, Plant”**

MIFFLINTOWN, PA. — Murray L. Katz, President of Empire Kosher Foods, Inc., has issued the following statement concerning the fire at the company’s poultry processing plant in Mifflintown, Pennsylvania, on January 26th.

“I am sure that you are aware that we suffered extreme damages, due to fire, at our Mifflintown Plant on Sunday, January 26. The total operation of the processing and administrative offices at our main plant were completely destroyed. Damage estimates, at this time, range between

15 and 17 million dollars.”

“This loss will immediately affect approximately 900 to 1,000 jobs in the Mifflintown, Central Pennsylvania area. Considering our suppliers, growers and others affiliated with the company, at least 4,000 persons will probably be affected, in one way or another.”

“The origin of the fire is being investigated by the Pennsylvania State Police Fire Marshalls, but we understand that it was apparently electrical in origin.”

“Insurance coverage of the losses is adequate. We have also been getting many offers of assistance from individuals, financial institutions and other companies. But more than anything, our biggest need now is time!”

Our objective now is to salvage what can be salvaged and to rebuild. It is our present plan to replace the building here at Mifflintown with a more modern facility, which will probably be the most modern plant of its type in the world.”

“It is also our objective to replace all of the jobs which have been lost and to add a minimum

of 200 to 300 new jobs.”

“It may take as long as 4 to 6 months for us to be back in total operation, where we were before.”

“In the interim, we will continue to fill all of our orders out of our other plants here in Mifflintown and in Mount Union, Pennsylvania.”

“About 150 employees have already been transferred to the Mount Union plant, where we will be adding a second shift, to help fill all orders.”

“We are hopeful that this business interruption will not affect Empire’s ability to supply top quality kosher poultry and food products to our many, many loyal customers around the world.”

“Our prime objective now is to get started with the rebuilding tasks as quickly as possible.”

Empire will endeavor to keep all interested persons informed regarding future plans and activities. Additional news releases will be issued as this information becomes available.

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