Running club responsible for evacuation of IKEA

New Haven (WTNH) _ Two people have been arrested following a Hazmat scare at IKEA.

Just before 5pm, authorities were alerted that a white powdery substance was being spread in the parking lot of IKEA on Sargent Drive in New Haven. Hazmat teams were among those called to determine if the substance was dangerous.

"Police and fire arrived on scene and upon investigating, they advised us to take all precautions and evacuate the building," said IKEA manager, Gail Franc.

Investigators also found other powder markings in the Long Wharf area. Employees and shoppers waited, all wondering what was going on.

"I thought virus because everyone was wearing the white suits. That's what they do when they see viruses," said IKEA shopper Rosa Pierrottet.

Shortly after 7pm, officers detained two women and two men who say they are part of a running club called the Hash House Harriers. The group says that it is their tradition to use flour to mark their route during games.

Police have charged two members of the group, 35-year old Daniel Salchow of New Haven and his sister, 31-year old Dorothee Salchow of Hamburg, Germany, with breach of peace.