



Morgan County School District Re-3
District Support Center
715 West Platte Avenue
Fort Morgan, Colorado 80701

August 30, 2018

Dear All:

On Tuesday, August 28, 2018, during third hour, a fire alarm was triggered at approximately 10:30 am. in an Agricultural Shop/tool room at the Fort Morgan High School.

The Fort Morgan High School administration and staff followed appropriate fire safety procedures, with the police and fire department arriving immediately. Following the incident, all students and staff were safe and without injury in relation to the alarm notification.

Please be advised that the high school administration/Facilities Director determined that the alarm was caused due to student activity involving the removal of cinder blocks in a storage room wall. The cinder blocks were removed through the use of a grinder and cutting tool. This work led to the accumulation of significant dust and the subsequent alarm.

Upon learning the above information, the District consulted its environmental plan for that area. The District, in contact with its environmental specialist firm, RLH Engineering, Inc., determined a risk that the cinder blocks in the storage room wall area contained asbestos and that students and staff may have been exposed to asbestos. Therefore, the district and its environmental specialists, RLH Engineering, Inc. made the decision to perform an assessment of that area.

Yesterday, Wednesday, August 29, 2018, RLH Engineering, Inc. performed an assessment of the Agriculture Shop/tool room environmental factors for presence of asbestos in the coating of the cinder-block, in the mortar, and in the air at 5:30 a.m. The results from the RLH assessment evidenced 3% asbestos in the cinder blocks coating only. All air sample results indicated a negative -result (no presence) for asbestos.



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Also on Wednesday, the District engaged in conversations with its property-casualty insurance provider via the Colorado School District Self-Insurance Pool. Based on those conversations, the District further noted that a garage bay door in the Agriculture Mechanics classroom was opened either during or after the 10:30 a.m. incident which positively pressurized air flow in the East wing of the school and potentially spreading the air-borne particles through the school.

Last evening at approximately 6:00 p.m., an environmental management team from Rocky Mountain Construction Company implemented critical barriers throughout the east wing of the school in what the District and the environmental management team believe to be the most susceptible areas to air contamination from the positive pressure created during the cutting of the cinder blocks. A larger critical barrier has been placed in the hallway, exterior doors used for access have been sealed-off with critical barriers, and critical barriers have also been installed on all entrances to the auditorium in order to prevent access to this wing and keep all air-borne fibers that may be present in that section of the school.

The Fort Morgan High School through the actions of its facilities director/personnel has shut down the heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems in this entire wing to prevent cross contamination of air-borne particles in the school. This action will prevent the returns from taking contaminated air from the contained space and circulating it through the system and then through the rest of the school. Air will be restored to areas at that time when the District and its environmental specialists have determined that such actions assure safety for all individuals.

Further, the Rocky Mountain Construction Company has established strategic locations to obtain air samples in the auditorium, hallway, band room, art room, classrooms, wood shop and Agriculture Shop/tool room to verify the asbestos levels in the air. Outside the critical barrier, sampling will also occur next to the main office over the cafeteria to ensure contamination didn't make it any further.



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The District has arranged for lab results to be available sometime on Thursday, August 30, 2018.

To all students, parents, and staff, I want to personally "thank you" for your efforts regarding this incident. As Superintendent of Schools, you have my assurance that it is the commitment of the Morgan County School District Re-3, the members of the Board of Education, and its staff that all professional and appropriate actions will occur to provide for the health and safety of students and staff members.

Please contact me at any time and with any concerns that you have regarding the District's processes and practices regarding this issue and/or any actions of the District. Thank you to Mr. Kyle Bules, his high school administration team, and the faculty and staff of the Fort Morgan High School for their professionalism and flexibility in the re-scheduling of classrooms at this time. Thank you to Mr. Mike Lee, District Chief School Business Official, Mr. Michael Boyer, District Human Resources Official, and Mr. Mike Bailey, District Facilities Director for their all of their work to ensure student and staff safety.

Sincerely,

Dr. James Hammack