



## UTAH NATIONAL GUARD

85<sup>TH</sup> WMD CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM  
1640 NORTH 2200 WEST  
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84116

January 22, 2024

### 85<sup>th</sup> WMD Civil Support Team response to Canyon View Middle School

The 85th WMD Civil Support Team was requested by Cedar City Fire Department (CCFD) Battalion Chief Mike Phillips to assist with the investigation of an incident at Canyon View Middle School, 1865 N Main Street, Cedar City UT 84721. The incident started on 18 JAN 2024 when during the school day, multiple carbon monoxide (CO) detectors alerted in D Hall, an area of the school that was under construction. CCFD confirmed the presence of CO in that area, with a maximum reading of 6 ppm on a 5-gas detector within 15 minutes of the alarm. The entire school was ventilated overnight and assessed on the morning of 19 JAN 2024 for the presence of CO with negative findings. The school was occupied by students and staff during the entirety of 19 JAN 2024.

On Saturday 20 JAN 2024, multiple youth basketball games were held in the Canyon View gymnasium. During this time the HVAC and heat were off. Multiple attendees and some athletes reported headache, nausea and malaise during or immediately after the event and reported to the emergency department of the local hospital. As of 0100 hrs on 21 JAN 2024 a total of 47 patients had presented to the hospital. According to hospital reports this cohort of patients had unremarkable carboxyhemoglobin levels. The facility was again swept for the presence of CO by CCFD, the State Fire Marshall's office and Dominion Energy with negative findings.

The 85th CST arrived on scene at 0900 on 21 JAN 2024. Given that multiple employees of Canyon View Middle School and CCFD had occupied the building almost continuously without illness, everyone on scene was screened for carboxyhemoglobin with a RAD 57 and all were negative. A comprehensive search and atmospheric monitoring of all parts of the school was completed. Our investigation included air monitoring in every room of the building, to include exhaustive and highly advanced analysis in specific areas of concern including D Hall, the administrative area, and the gymnasium. Additionally, analysis was done at ground level and elevated positions. There were no abnormal findings for CO or a large panel of toxic industrial chemicals and materials. All CST members were re-screened for CO after the entry and were negative.

After completing rigorous testing, the 85th CST concluded that there were no airborne hazards in Canyon View Middle School at the time of our analysis. The possibility of an airborne hazard that we could not detect is extremely unlikely. The incident on 18 JAN 2024 involving gas powered tools and triggered CO detectors suggests that there was a transient CO issue in the construction area but was not at

levels that were immediately dangerous to life or health. This is evidenced by the fact that multiple employees who were in the area were not symptomatic. Additionally, the building has been occupied almost continuously since this incident by engineering staff and the fire department. All are asymptomatic and had negative CO levels on our arrival. It is difficult to explain the patient presentations after 18 JAN 2024, particularly because there was not a trend of elevated CO levels in the patients. There were at least 4 patients who presented to the hospital who had not even been inside Canyon View Middle School in recent history. Our experience is that it is not uncommon in the event of a workplace exposure, to have patients present who were not in the exposed population. This is well documented in the medical literature. Please feel free to contact me with further questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Robert A. Dent, MPAS, PA-C  
Lieutenant Colonel, Utah Army National Guard  
Commander, 85<sup>th</sup> WMD Civil Support Team  
[robert.a.dent.mil@army.mil](mailto:robert.a.dent.mil@army.mil)