



Rochelle Park School District

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Emergency Evacuation and School Closing - Update

July 27, 2021

Dear School Community:

Earlier today an announcement was made regarding an evacuation of Midland School resulting in an emergency school closing. The evacuation was conducted upon the recommendation of the Rochelle Park Office of Emergency Management, and all individuals were not in any danger, as noted in the initial announcement.

The evacuation was done to ensure everyone's safety. Students and staff smoothly transitioned to the Knights of Columbus on Rochelle Avenue and were dismissed from that location. Everyone's patience and cooperation made for a most efficient experience.

The emergency fire signal sounded this morning, most unexpectedly. After all needed emergency personnel arrived and assessed the building it was learned the alarm was triggered by carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide was detected as a result of a floor cleaning solvent being used by a contractor on the first floor. The carbon monoxide levels ranged from 10 parts per million to 26 parts per million. For a frame of reference, the United States Environmental Protection Agency* notes, "Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) permissible exposure limit (PEL) for carbon monoxide is 50 parts per million (ppm) parts of air (55 milligrams per cubic meter (mg/m³)) as an 8-hour time-weighted average concentration".

The closing was implemented to allow for implementation of proper ventilation practices and to ensure everyone's continued safety. The building has been properly cleared and zero carbon monoxide level is detected; it is safe to return to Midland School.

A huge note of gratitude to everyone who was on site today. The cooperation from students, staff, and parents/guardians clearly demonstrated a community who understands the importance of first ensuring safety and patiently waiting for details to follow. In addition, the response from both the Rochelle Park and Maywood Fire Departments, Rochelle Park Police Department, Rochelle Park Office of Emergency Management, Mayor, and Board of Education were continued examples of how a community comes together to serve and support each other. A special note of thanks to the Knights of Columbus for opening their doors to our community.

We look forward to being back at Midland School tomorrow!

Sincerely,

Sue DeNobile

Dr. Sue DeNobile,
Superintendent

*Source:

https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/carbon-monoxides-impact-indoor-air-quality#Exposure_Limits