



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WEST VIRGINIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
35TH CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM (WMD)  
5 ARMORY DRIVE  
SAINT ALBANS WV 25177-2674

NGWV-HLD-CST (900b)

29 October 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR Chief Steve Hines, Elkins Fire Department

SUBJECT: Executive Summary for 35<sup>th</sup> CST Mission #2410-0038-1 Elkins Middle School

1. Field analysis conducted by the 35<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team is PRESUMPTIVE and is for use in support of public safety decision making only. It is neither confirmatory in nature, nor it is for use as sole justification for site occupation safety.
2. On 28 October 2024 at 1530, the Randolph County OEM/911 Center Director, Michael Miller contacted the 35<sup>th</sup> CST, notifying the team he was submitting a WebEOC request for Civil Support Team support at Elkins Middle School, located at 308 Robert E. Lee Avenue in Elkins, WV. Mr. Miller advised that on Thursday, 24 October 2024, students at the school began to complain of headaches, with some being seen at the local hospital. Initial mission information indicated that multiple agencies, including Elkins Fire Department, conducted atmospheric monitoring of the school over the course of 5 days resulting in few, very low readings of carbon monoxide (avg 2-3 PPM in measured areas indicating normal background readings). The 35<sup>th</sup> CST was requested and activated through the WV National Guard Joint Operations Center to prepare for deployment to Elkins Middle School to conduct additional atmospheric monitoring. The 35<sup>th</sup> CST arrived on-scene at 0825 on 29 October 2024 to conduct linkup with site officials and initiate monitoring.
3. Entry operations performed: Entry team personnel conducted initial building reconnaissance in areas were of high interest with Chief Hines, complete at 290910ROCT2024. The team used RAE Systems MultiRAE Pro Multi-gas Monitors that included sensors for volatile organic compounds, lower explosive limits, carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, and oxygen. There were no elevated readings during this entry and oxygen levels were normal (20.8%) in the kitchen, boiler room, Room 106, Room 107, and all hallways and common areas on all three floors.
4. The second entry began at 290924ROCT2024 and included monitoring/atmospheric presumptive testing with the HAPSITE ER. Prior to operation, operators completed the HAPSITE ER internal testing to ensure the unit was prepared for operation. The HAPSITE ER is a portable Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer (GC/MS) used in identifying and quantifying volatile organic compounds (VOCs), toxic industrial chemicals (TICs), toxic industrial materials (TIMs), chemical warfare agents (CWAs), and select semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs). It contains a library of over 70,000 of these chemicals. The entry team used the HAPSITE in both Survey mode with sensitivity down

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to 1 PPM and sampling mode using GC/MS low-level detection (PPM/PPB range) and identification. Surveys were conducted throughout the previously identified area and a sample run was conducted in the kitchen resulting in no elevated readings or identifications. Entry #2 was concluded on 291019ROCT2024. The third entry began at 291044ROCT2024 using the HAPSITE ER to sample between rooms 106 and 107 and MultiRAE's to monitor areas on roof of the building (which was being replaced). There were no elevated readings or identifications on the HAPSITE ER. Elevated VOCs indicated at 1-2 feet from roof bonding agent being used on the roof validated equipment use and indicated expected results directly from a VOC containing material. No other areas monitored on the roof resulted in any elevated readings. Entry #3 concluded at 291108ROCT2024.

5. Final Assessment and recommendations: All monitoring activity conducted by the 35<sup>th</sup> CST indicated no readings above equipment internal standards, normal background, or expected results directly from the roof bonding material in use. Team concurred with plan to conduct water sampling by the municipal water department for further analysis in support of decision making.

6. The 35<sup>th</sup> CST completed mission objectives and was released from the scene at 291125ROCT2024.

7. Point of contact for this the undersigned at ryan.a.schwartz.mil@army.mil or 304-201-3151.

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Commanding