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GLENWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL FIRE RESTORATION: INITIAL PROGRESS REPORT

January 6, 2016

Prepared by: Ed Light, CIH

Prepared for: Howard County Public School System

Building Dynamics, LLC (BDL) was requested by HCPSS to assess smoke damage at Glenwood Middle School resulting from an electrical fire. BDL was tasked with:

1. Identify areas contaminated by fire residue (soot, ash, char)
2. Recommend remedial procedures.
3. Recommend containment measures to isolate affected areas from the rest of the building.
4. Evaluate impact on HVAC systems.
5. Periodically inspect building to ensure safety of visitors to non-affected areas and confirm cleanup and containment procedures are followed.
6. At completion of work, re-assess the building and clear areas for re-occupancy when they are fully restored and there is no exposure to fire residue.

At noon on January 5, 2016, an underground wire outside the building ignited the electrical switchgear, causing a fire and smoke in the boiler room. The fire was extinguished and the school evacuated. HCPSS restoration contractor, was onsite that afternoon to assess the damage and initiate cleanup. BDL arrived at the site at 5pm to start a comprehensive inspection and review initial plans. Fire residue was identified by surface wipe testing with a chem sponge.

Affected areas were as follows:

- Boiler room
- Custodial office
- Kitchen
- Cafeteria
- Gym
- Boys' locker room
- Main Office back hall, rest room work room
- Corridors adjacent to cafeteria

On the evening of January 5, affected areas were isolated behind containment barriers and put under negative pressure, operating exhaust fans and air scrubbers. The contractor followed standard restoration procedures for smoke damage by removing damaged materials (i.e., ceiling tiles) and starting a cleanup sequence including debris removal, HEPA-vacuuming and chem sponge wiping and cleaning.

The morning of January 6, BDL reviewed the containment and had the contractor seal wall penetrations and doors. The work areas was confirmed to be under negative pressure, preventing fire residue from spreading into adjacent areas. BDL also had the Boys' locker room placed under separate containment to protect adjacent areas during cleanup.

BDL inspected representative areas throughout the building by visual and odor evaluation above and below ceilings, chem sponge wipe tests of surfaces and headspace odor checks of porous items. Classrooms appeared to be unaffected and were all cleaned the night of January 5 by HCPSS custodians, as a precaution.