



Modesto Regional Fire Authority

"We Care"

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Office of the Fire Chief
Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Odor Prompts Evacuation of School

Modesto, CA - This morning units from the Modesto Regional Fire Authority responded to The Kendall Center / Therapeutic Pathways on 14th Street. Several staff members were complaining of respiratory irritation and general illness. The first arriving fire engine company determined that the incident be elevated to a Haz-Mat response. Staff and students were evacuated to a nearby church.

The response was elevated to a Level III response, which brings members of the team from allied fire agencies. An entry plan was formulated and an entry team, comprised of two firefighters in encapsulated protective suits with breathing apparatus, was assembled and entered the building to investigate. Using air sampling devices the entry team was unable to replicate the conditions that caused staff members concern. Another team made their way to the roof to look for anything that might be picked up by the air handling system.

The exact cause of the odor could not be determined. A total of 3 Engines, the Haz-Mat Response Unit, several Chief Officers and several allied agency firefighters responded to the scene. Additional assistance was provided by Mountain Valley EMS Agency, AMR Ambulance and MPD. A total of 25 MRFA personnel responded to the incident.

Families of the students were notified about the incident. School staff has made arrangements to pick up students for the day.

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