



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DATE:** *February 7, 2018*  
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## **Strange Odor Causes a Lock Down and Haz-Mat response at Local HS**

**Date/Time:** 02/07/2018, 11:25am  
**Location:** Grand Terrace High School, 21810 Main St., City of Grand Terrace  
**Incident:** Hazardous Materials Incident

**Summary:** At approximately 11:25 am, February 7, 911 dispatchers received a call from staff members at Grand Terrace High School stating students were complaining of a strange odor coming from one of the classrooms in the administration building located on campus. SBCoFD responded Medic Engine 23 from Grand Terrace to investigate the odor.

Upon the engines arrival, the company officer and his crew started gathering further information from school staff and started to investigate the area where the students said the odor was coming from. During the course of their investigation several students and some staff members started to complain of minor respiratory difficulties. As the fire crew entered the building they also felt effects of some sort of air born irritant. It was at this time the fire Captain requested the building be evacuated and advised staff to isolate and deny entry of the building. As a precaution, students in other areas of the school were confined to their classrooms until the cause could be determined.

The incident was upgraded to a Haz-Mat response with additional fire units requested as well as two ambulances. A unified incident command system was established between SBCoFD, San Bernardino County Sheriff, and Colton Unified School District.

A total of 14 students and two adult staff members had complaints of minor respiratory difficulties. Fire paramedics on scene established a triage area in the school's library to treat and assess the students and staff members. Two adults were transported to local area hospitals with minor injuries. All 14 students were released back to their parents with no additional medical complaints.

The SBCoFD haz-mat team's specialist entered the involved building with special monitoring equipment to check for any chemical irritants that may have been inside. At the conclusion of the team's investigation, it was determined there was no remnants of the irritant left inside the building. As an additional precaution, fire personnel set up high pressure fans at the doorways of the building to allow fresh air to move about the building. The incident concluded with no further injuries and the school was released back to the school administrators for normal operations.

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