

COUNTY OF CAMPBELL



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

Gas Odor Investigated at Rustburg High School: No Public Hazards Detected

RUSTBURG, VA – On Tuesday morning, September 20, a gas-like odor reported at Rustburg High School resulted in local public safety, sheriff's department, school, and gas company officials cooperatively conducting an investigation to determine if potentially dangerous gases were present in the area. No gas leaks or other hazardous materials/gases were detected.

Rustburg High School closed at 11:30 a.m. with students evacuated as a safety precaution; this likewise provided investigators the needed access to conduct a thorough investigation. Local fire and EMS personnel reported to the scene to survey the premises for any hazards. Also, as a precaution, fire officials monitored other buildings in the vicinity to determine if a threat was present.

Rustburg High School was the only facility officially evacuated; classes are expected to resume on regular operating hours tomorrow.

As a general safety reminder to all citizens, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends that individuals know what course of action to take if ever detecting gas or other unknown fumes in the home, school or workplace. The following are good safety measures to keep in mind:

General Safety Precautions for Everyday:

- Educate yourself and your family on gas safety; contact your local gas service provider to learn how to properly shut off valves and secure equipment. Select a pre-determined meeting location for your family, should the need ever arise to evacuate.

(continued)

- If you ever detect the smell of fumes or gas, do not light matches or any open flame; do not use electrical devices that may create a spark. Avoid turning on light switches.
- If gas smells/fumes are present, open the windows and leave the affected area, retreating to a safe distance. Once out of range of the odor, call 911 and your local gas service provider.
- Remember, if a gas valve is turned off for any reason, a qualified professional must turn it back on. NEVER attempt to turn the gas back on yourself.

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