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News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Department Responds to Odor at High School

At approximately 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2010, Lake Havasu High School called the Lake Havasu City Fire Department requesting a fire inspector to assist in tracing down an unusual odor from what appeared to be a stink bomb. School officials had found what appeared to be the remains of a stink bomb in two separate trash cans earlier that morning in the hallway of “J” building. The fire inspector was able to locate a third location with an odor in the container of an artificial tree. The tree was removed and the hallway was naturally ventilated. School officials thought the problem had been solved and the source removed. After a few hours of school officials conducting an investigation, a student had been identified as the person that committed the prank. During the interview process, the student admitted he had committed the prank by leaving a small amount of a liquid in several places within “J” Hall. The school notified the Fire Department again at approximately 3:30 p.m. The Fire Department’s Hazardous Materials Team responded and, after further investigation, was able to identify the substance as Malathion, which is used as a pesticide. This product had been obtained from the student’s residence. Firefighters ensured the building was evacuated and then began ventilating the hallway with high-powered fans. The Fire Department advised the school officials they would need to call in a professional cleaning company before the building could be occupied again. Once school officials had determined the prank involved a pesticide, the Lake Havasu City Police Department was called in to handle the criminal investigation.

Contact: Call Fire Marshal Chip Shilosky at 453-3313 for further information

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