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For Immediate Release

Cause of Chemical Incident at Camp Williams Announced

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah – The Utah National Guard’s 85th Civil Support Team responded to a chemical incident at Camp Williams today, which resulted in 11 Camp Williams employees’ being sent to Riverton Hospital for treatment.

The employees, a mix of civilian and Utah National Guard Soldiers, either worked or spent time in the building known as the Utah Center for Domestic Preparedness Training Facility. About half of the victims showed symptoms of headache, burning eyes, runny nose and sore throat. The remainder were sent to the hospital as a precaution.

Before seeing the patients, Riverton Hospital officials requested that Unified Fire Authority conduct a decontamination on the 11 individuals. The decon was performed, patients were seen by doctors, held for observation and released from the hospital this afternoon.

The 85th Civil Support Team, the Utah National Guard’s hazmat-response unit, conducted a sweep of the building to identify the suspected source of the symptoms.

Investigators located a leak in the building’s heating system, which had been dripping onto the drywall below. According to Maj. Craig Bello of the 85th Civil Support Team, the combination of the “weak acid” from the leak and the calcium carbonate contained in the wallboard material combined to create the airborne irritant that caused victims’ discomfort.

Utah Guard officials have directed that the leak be repaired and the wallboard replaced before the building is allowed to be reoccupied.

Please contact Lt. Col. Hank McIntire at (801) 420-4778 for additional information.