



## **HOLDEN FIRE DEPARTMENT**

1370 MAIN STREET • HOLDEN MA 01520 • (508) 210-5650 • FAX: (508) 210-5657  
RUSSELL HALL, FIRE CHIEF



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2019**

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### **Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Incident – Dawson Elementary School**

**HOLDEN** A malfunction of a heating appliance caused the evacuation of the Dawson Elementary School, 155 Salisbury Street, Holden. The fire department was notified at 10:22 A.M. by a commercial alarm monitoring company of a fire alarm pull station activation at the school.

According to Holden Fire Chief Russell Hall, the first arriving units found an oil fired heating appliance had malfunctioned, emitting smoke and carbon monoxide into the boiler room. Power to the unit was disconnected; the smoke and the high carbon monoxide levels were ventilated and removed from the structure. Students and staff were evacuated from the building prior to the arrival of the fire department and were not exposed to the carbon monoxide from the appliance. This incident was contained to the room of origin due to the roof vent being opened by the custodian prior to the malfunction. This roof vent carried a portion of the smoke to the outside which reduced the residual amounts in the building.

In this case, quick acting staff was able to alert the fire department, but it is this type of incident that shows the need for early carbon monoxide detection in schools.

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