



ACCIDENTAL FIRE EXTINGUISHER RELEASE PROMPTS SCHOOL EVACUATION

STUDENTS AND STAFF RETURN TO CLASSES SAFELY AFTER MISHAP

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On September 18th, an incident occurred at the high school around 7:50 AM in room 30. A student accidentally bumped into a fire extinguisher that was not properly secured to the wall, causing it to drop off the hook it was hanging from. The extinguisher fell on its bottom, which caused it to erupt and begin spinning. This led to its contents being expelled throughout the hallway and a fog cloud that spread to other halls of the building.

Thankfully, no one was hurt due to its path being driven into the floor. Had it not spun out, it likely would have damaged the surrounding area from the force of the reaction. Ms. Rothrey was able to get into the room and got the students out safely.

In an abundance of caution, the high school was evacuated, and students were sent to the varsity gym. Mrs. Hinkle said that the speed and coordination of the different departments within the school were incredible. She stated that it was “definitely a unique event. Obviously, we don’t have ‘fire extinguisher’ evacuation drills; we only have regular evacuation drills.” Despite that, the building was cleared quickly, with everyone quickly adapting to the unique situation.

Students were told to keep on task for whatever class they were missing out on. Everyone did their best to keep up with what work they could and find ways to occupy their time, with the football team even beginning to practice motions near the end of the stay in the gym.

The fire department was contacted about what to do, and the best course of action was to air out the school, which was a larger task than it seemed, because the fumes had spread across the entire building. Windows were kept open, and ventilation units in the science labs were turned on to clear out the fog, which took roughly an hour.

At 9:30 AM, the school was deemed safe to enter, and classes returned to normal with no changes to the schedule. Mrs. Hinkle said, “The teamwork between the faculty, administration, and school security was critical to making things run smoothly.”

Mr. Heck’s room was kept closed off for the rest of the day to allow the majority of the mess to be cleaned up. However, red paint has stained the floor from the force of the rotation of the extinguisher, leaving a lasting reminder of the incident.

In hopes of preventing any future repeats of this event, Mrs. Hinkle said that the placement of the fire extinguishers was going to be looked into further.



Chemical fog fills the halls of BHS.

Photo by Raegan Milheim



A lasting reminder of the day’s events

Photo by Jaxon Hittle