



City of Tustin PIO: Stephanie Najera

Contact: 714-573-3107

City of Tustin to Proceed with Exterior Soil & Interior Air/Dust Sampling Following Navy North Hangar Fire

City to “go above and beyond” by directing exterior soil and indoor air/dust sampling of residences with oversight by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

(City of Tustin, CA – Dec. 20, 2023) – The City of Tustin announced today that it will move forward with exterior soil and interior air/dust sampling for asbestos and lead with the oversight of the US Environmental Protection Agency, following the Navy North Hangar Fire.

Last week, the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) announced there were no detections of airborne asbestos during air monitoring/sampling conducted during the incident response. OCHCA experts also determined that testing indoor spaces is not necessary.

“I want to thank the OCHCA Officer and her staff for their support throughout the incident. Like many of my neighbors, I was relieved by the OCHCA announcement that airborne asbestos has never been detected during the entirety of the incident,” Mayor Austin Lombard said.

“The City appreciates OCHCA’s scientific conclusion that interior residential testing is unnecessary based on the extensive available data. However, in a collective effort to go above and beyond what is required to address lingering community concerns, the City is moving forward with performing exterior soil and interior air/dust sampling for asbestos and lead,” Lombard said.

Details regarding the sampling protocol, including timing and locations of the sampling, are being developed in consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and will be shared in the coming days.

The decision follows encouraging news from Innovative Emergency Management (IEM), the incident management lead for the recovery operation, that 85% of the residential debris cleanup has been completed. Earlier this week, Heritage Elementary School and Legacy Magnet Academy welcomed back students to on-campus learning.

“I am very encouraged by the progress we are making in our recovery efforts ahead of Christmas,” Lombard said. “As a father with four children who attend – and were excited to be back in school at – both Legacy Magnet Academy and Heritage Elementary schools, I know first-hand the relief that the reopening of the two schools has brought many local families.”

#####