



LVFD



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Las Vegas Fire Department

TO: New Mexico Highlands University Administration
FROM: Captain Daniel Atencio, LVFD
DATE: October 7, 2024
RE: Ivan Hilton Building Status

On September 3rd, 2024, a minor release of less than 100 grams of Dimethylamine Hydrochloride, a hazardous chemical, occurred in the Ivan Hilton Science Building. Emergency procedures were promptly activated, and the spill was safely isolated, contained, and packaged for proper disposal.

The building was thoroughly evacuated, and a comprehensive evaluation was conducted to determine the extent of the chemical release and identify any affected areas. Once the spill was contained and neutralized, a thorough cleaning and decontamination process was initiated to ensure the safety of the building.

Under the direction of the Las Vegas Fire Department (LVFD) and the supervision of the New Mexico Highlands University Environmental Health and Safety (NMHU EHS) team, third-party contractors were dispatched to the scene. The contractors, equipped with specialized hazmat training and equipment, swiftly assessed the situation and took decisive action to mitigate any further potential risks.

Rigorous safety protocols have been planned and are being implemented to significantly reduce the likelihood of future hazardous materials incidents within the Ivan Hilton Building. These comprehensive measures include regular inspections, emergency drills, and ongoing training for staff, faculty, and students to ensure that they are prepared to respond effectively in the event of a chemical spill or other hazardous situation.

Additionally, the building's infrastructure is being evaluated and upgraded to enhance containment capabilities and minimize the potential spread of hazardous substances.