

Department of Buildings & General Services
Office of the Commissioner
2 Governor Aiken Ave.
Montpelier, VT 05633

[phone] 802-828-3519
[fax] 802-828-3533

Agency of Administration

MEMORANDUM

TO: State of Vermont Employees - Davis Building

FROM: Environmental Health & Safety Coordinator, Buildings & General Services

DATE: June 7, 2018

Subject: Davis Building Fire - Air Quality Response Summary

This memorandum was prepared for State of Vermont employees who work in the Davis Building located on the National Life campus in Montpelier. The Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS) has been working closely with your agency leadership and key staff to assess and clean up the areas of the Davis Building affected by the fire and water inundation that occurred on Saturday June 2nd. BGS teams were on-site starting Saturday evening within hours of the fire incident, including our Deputy Commissioner Jennifer Fitch and Director of Property Management and Planning Marc O'Grady. Steve Hubbs, BGS Environmental Health & Safety Coordinator, has also been in the Davis Building since Monday June 6th interacting with the recovery team which includes staff and contractors working for National Life, the State of Vermont, and our respective insurance companies.

BGS is aware of your concerns regarding air quality in the building. We prepared this memorandum to summarize the situation as it stands today, the steps taken to address air quality, and our plans to address air quality over the next week. As you can imagine, this situation is evolving fast and we expect our plans for monitoring air quality to adapt accordingly. The following steps have been taken to date to address air quality in the Davis Building, or are planned over the next week:

- On Monday June 4, Crothers Environmental collected air samples for mold testing on Davis 3 and Davis 4. The primary purpose of this air sampling was to clear Davis 3 for AOT employees to briefly enter the space to retrieve mission-critical files on Tuesday June 5. Given the rapid response to the water intrusion on Davis 3, we did not expect to find airborne mold. BGS received the test results verbally on Monday evening which confirmed there were no elevated levels of "indoor type" molds in the air samples. A copy of the final report will be distributed to employees, as will all future test results.
- Air scrubbers, which are essentially large fans equipped with High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters, have operated continuously on the Davis 2, 3 and 4 since the incident. The scrubbers will remove particles in the air including soot (resulting from the fire) and mold spores (resulting from wet materials). Due to the ongoing fire investigation by insurance companies working for National Life and the State of Vermont, the cubicles that burned have not been removed from Davis 4. We are working to have these removed as soon as possible. Once these cubicles are removed the air quality should rapidly improve on Davis 4.
- Starting soon after the incident, National Life placed Davis 3 and 4 under negative air pressure to help isolate them from the other floors in the building. Out of an abundance of caution, air scrubbers were placed on Davis 5 and will be operated during non-business hours until they are no longer needed. Efforts are being made to run these machines continuously without disrupting agency operations.



- On June 7 a consultant working for BGS, ATC Group Services, measured moisture levels in wall panels (not cubicles) on Davis 1 and Davis 2. Wall panels in only two small areas on Davis 2 had moisture levels that indicated they should be discarded. The cubicles in all water-damaged areas have an acoustic foam that cannot be salvaged after getting wet. The affected cubicles were identified soon after the incident and will be discarded as soon as possible.
- Cleaning of the air ducts throughout the building started on Wednesday June 6. National Life engaged Chuck's Heating and Plumbing to perform this work. Duct cleaning in occupied office space will be performed outside of normal business hours. Air vents will be blocked with film to prevent debris from falling into workspaces during this process. If you observe any debris from the duct cleaning process in your workspace, please notify your agency and National Life will respond.
- BGS and our insurance company have begun working with a consultant that specializes in incident response, RA West Associates, to perform air testing for soot, char, and ash on all floors of the Davis Building. This testing is being performed out of an abundance of caution. We expect the testing to begin early next week. The results of this and all future air testing will be distributed to employees by their respective agencies.
- Air testing for mold is planned to start on Friday June 8 for Davis 1 and 2. This testing is being performed out of an abundance of caution and not because we suspect the presence of airborne mold. The results of this and all future air testing will be distributed to employees by their respective agencies. A regular schedule for air testing is being developed.
- BGS will continue to monitor indoor air quality on all floors of the Davis Building, in close coordination with agency leadership.

If you have questions about air quality or other issues as the incident response continues, please reach out to your supervisor or department leadership, or as directed by your agency/department.