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VALLEJO FIRE STATION 24 GIVEN CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH

A certified industrial hygienist has declared Vallejo Fire Station 24 on Oakwood Avenue safe for habitation and operation by the Vallejo Fire Department.

The Springstowne Library, located adjacent to the fire station, was also given a clean bill of health.

Following several reports of illness by firefighters living and working in the building, preliminary testing in April and again in August revealed the presence of mold and other pollutants in the station. As a safety precaution, the firefighters were moved to another location – Station 27 on Columbus Parkway - and Station 24 on Oakwood Avenue was closed.

A more thorough and extensive level of testing was done, which revealed the station was fit for occupancy. The report offered several minor recommendations for the building.

The test, conducted on August 10, 2006, included taking air samples from several locations inside and outside the building; visual inspections of walls, bathrooms, showers; and inspections of duct and ventilation systems.

“A visual examination of the occupiable spaces of the building was unremarkable, with no obvious signs of mold growth, no sites of apparent water intrusion, and no other indications of degraded air quality. Air samples collected in seven (7) indoor locations in the fire station revealed normal and typical airborne types and concentrations of mold spores. Based on these findings, there are no indications that mold spores are degrading air quality,” the report states. “This evaluation did not identify any apparent or likely environmental health hazards to the fire station occupants.”

The testing and evaluation was conducted by Certified Industrial Hygienist Jeffrey B. Hicks, Principal Scientist, Exponent Health Group.

During the closure of the station, cleaning and planned minor repairs will be completed.

Firefighters are expected to reoccupy the station on Saturday, August 19.