

Cypress Creek High School Closure- Question and Answer
May 3, 2009

- **What type of damage was sustained at CCHS during the Tuesday storm and why was the decision made to close the campus? What repair work was done?**

Shortly after midnight on Tuesday morning, the school sustained significant damage to the main electrical service that serves power to the entire campus. The damage occurred between the CenterPoint electrical transformer and our main electrical switchgear panels and caused a complete power outage to the campus. Some water infiltration occurred next to the original building where the new addition is under construction. The water was cleaned up; however, because there was no electricity to the school, it was not possible to have the school remain open.

Even though we have an emergency generator on the site, it only powers a minimum number of light fixtures and emergency systems such as the Intercom and Fire Alarm System. It does not handle the air conditioning needs of the building. The campus could not have remained open with only emergency lighting and no air conditioning.

- **Was the damage related in any way to the ongoing renovation work at CCHS?**

The main electrical service was damaged from the effects of the storm on Tuesday morning. This electrical service was replaced last summer as part of the ongoing renovation project.

- **How many days was the school closed? What type of repair/remediation work was done during that time?**

The campus was closed a total of four days, from Tuesday (when the entire district was closed as a result of inclement weather) through Friday. This closure was based on reports from our project team indicating repairs would take through the weekend to complete.

Immediately after the storm passed when it was safe, the District had CenterPoint check their transformer. It was determined that the electrical wiring and conduit/box that connects the transformer to the main electrical switchgear was damaged and had to be replaced. The large breakers at the switchgear had to be removed and tested. New parts had to be located and delivered to the site to complete the repairs/replacement. The damaged wiring and conduit had to be removed and replaced and the conduit box located on top of the transformer had to be repaired.

This work was completed on Saturday afternoon and CenterPoint was on standby to reenergize the main power service to the building. This transfer was successful and the project team began to systematically energize the electrical panels serving all the building systems and power. The building had to be checked to make sure no further damage occurred to critical building systems such as the PA/Intercom and Fire Alarm, Technology network, classroom power, HVAC and building control systems, etc. At approximately noon on Sunday, May 3, 2009, the HVAC system chillers were restarted and controls were tested to ensure a safe and comfortable learning environment for students and staff. The district was able to issue an all clear at 2:30 p.m. to allow students and staff to return to the campus on Monday.

- **How were parents and students notified?**

Parents and students were notified using the district's automated phone call system, messages were placed on the district and campus website, and the principal sent out a Key Communicator email to parents.

- **Is there any ongoing repair work that will be done when students return to campus?**

All repair/replacement work that needed to occur has been completed and normal construction activities related to the additions and renovations at the campus will resume.

- **What does the closure mean to students (i.e. will they make up TAKS tests, will it affect graduating seniors, etc.)?**

Cypress Creek students will take the TAKS test Tuesday through Friday of next week, May 5-8. Advanced Placement tests, scheduled nationally by the College Board, will begin on Monday, May 4. Senior students who are not taking the TAKS test, will be able to take the AP tests at the regularly scheduled times. Underclassmen will be able to take the AP exams during the nationally scheduled makeup days later in May.

- **How is the CCHS renovation project coming along and will this affect the reconstruction schedule (i.e. when is the project expected to be completed)?**

The additions and renovations are going very well at the campus. Because we lost power to the entire campus, construction activities were very limited last week. As a result, a few days were lost in the overall schedule. However, our general contractor assured the district they will do everything possible to make up these lost days to ensure that the original final completion schedule (August 2010) will be met.

- **Is there any other information or a message you would like to get out to CCHS students and parents?**

From Jim Wells, principal at Cypress Creek High School: *"I want to thank parents, students, and Cy-Creek staff for their positive attitude during this unavoidable situation. I also want to assure parents and students that the Cy-Creek staff will work hard to minimize the impact of these missed instructional days. The teachers and other staff will be flexible and will keep student needs first and foremost in our minds."*

"We also want to thank all of those who worked around the clock these past several days to ensure that the campus could safely open on Monday. It was a tremendous team effort by CenterPoint, our general contractor and subcontractors, district staff members from Maintenance, Operations, Technology, Facilities, Food Service, as well as our Cypress Creek staff members."