

ELIZABETH KENT

**PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR
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**ONEIDA SCHOOL DISTRICT #351
195 S. 300 E.
MALAD, ID 83252**

January 7, 2020

Re: Emergency Closure of Malad Elementary School

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Today, January 7, 2020, school was canceled at Malad Elementary. At 5:40 am, this morning, the Superintendent was notified about trouble with the heating system at the Elementary. After multiple tries to start the heating system, it was determined by the head custodian, principal, and superintendent that the building would not be warm enough for students to attend school today. The decision was made to cancel, and parents were notified that there would be no school for the Elementary students.

In an investigation this morning, it was discovered that late yesterday, after the custodial staff and certified staff left for the day, a propane delivery was made to the school. During the filling of the tank by the driver, a small propane fire occurred. The fire was quickly extinguished. However, the small fire did cause damage to some of the lines which feed the propane into the boiler. This caused the boiler not to work because there was no propane to fuel it. This small fire is the reason that school was canceled.

The district was not notified of this fire until a call was made this morning to the propane company. When the district reached out, the propane company shared that there was a fire; however, the company was not able to respond as to why the district was not notified immediately following the

incident. Early investigation indicates that it was most likely driver error during the filling process.

To ensure student safety, the following steps are being taken:

1. We have two separate propane experts coming to investigate why this small fire occurred and determine what needs to be done so an incident like this will not be repeated.
2. After the investigation is made and the cause determined, we will take steps to ensure the heating system and the Elementary are safe for students to return to school.
3. We hope to give out notification later today with an update to this situation and the prospects of students returning to school tomorrow.

Please know that the situation is being taken care of and investigated.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kent
Public Relations Coordinator
Oneida School District #351