



Arkansas Department of Emergency Management
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Arkansas National Guard Conducting Air Monitoring In Bella Vista

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark — The 61st Civil Support Team (CST) from the Arkansas National Guard will be conducting on going air monitoring tests at The Trafalgar Site in Bella Vista starting on Tuesday, February 26, 2019. The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) has request the 61st CST to provide air monitoring in the community immediately adjacent to the Bella Vista Trafalgar Road site. The team will collect baseline data during daylight hours only.

The data collection will be accomplished using commercially available equipment with sensors for specific hazards that have been collectively agreed upon with the Arkansas Department of Health.

Monitoring stations will be placed at the same locations where previous EPA monitoring was done, thus minimizing any additional disruption to nearby property owners. The data sets will be transmitted to the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) at the end of each day. A private contractor is responsible for monitoring the air within the dump site itself.

The CST will ensure continuity and reliability of data collection and methods throughout the entirety of the remediation process. After this baseline collection period, CST will have one or more subject matter experts on the ground every single day during the remediation period.

The Arkansas National Guard is uniquely suited to perform this mission, as every one of its CST members are trained HazMat Technicians and equipment experts. The citizens of Bella Vista can be assured of accurate and reliable monitoring data being communicated to the lead response agencies that will, in turn, disseminate the information to the interested public.

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Director (ADEQ) Becky W. Keogh stated, "ADEQ is dedicated to exploring resources to report the most accurate air-quality data to the residents of Bella Vista. The 61st CST has state-of-the-art, air-monitoring equipment with real time data collection capabilities. ADEQ is grateful to partner with the Arkansas National Guard to deliver this important information regarding air quality for those impacted by the smoke from the underground fire."

Arkansas Department of Emergency Management and The Arkansas National Guard remain committed to supporting our state and local partners during all phases of activity regarding the Trafalgar Road fire.

The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management is the state's homeland security and preparedness agency. The agency works to identify and lessen the effects of emergencies, disasters and threats to Arkansas by developing effective prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery actions for all disasters and emergencies. For additional information, contact ADEM at (501) 683-6700 or visit the website at www.adem.arkansas.gov.