

Eden Marine High School

Community update | 6 December 2024

Dear staff, parents and carers,

We are writing to provide you an update on the fire incident that occurred at Eden Marine High School on Wednesday 4 December 2024.

The school is temporarily non-operational due to 3 fires - which were located in the staffroom of Building G, science lab of Building E and a demountable outside Building G.

The fire was extinguished by 2 cleaners who were working at the school before emergency services arrived.

Emergency services including Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Ambulance and NSW Police attended to fully extinguish the fire, assess the cleaners and ensure the security of the school site.

As a result of the fire, smoke and water damage which affected 10 classrooms and 2 staffrooms across Buildings E and G, the school was non-operational on Wednesday and Thursday and will remain non-operational today (Friday 6 December).

The affected rooms are:

- Building G
 - Ground floor staffroom, study room and 4 classrooms
 - Level 1 computer lab, staffroom and 3 classrooms
- Building E
 - Ground floor science lab (ER0009)
- 1 demountable outside Building G

Return to school

While we are committed to repairing the rooms directly affected by the fire, our focus is on supporting students and staff while ensuring continuity of learning.

The school will begin operations again next week with a gradual return of students on designated days. Year groups will attend school on the following days:

- Monday 9 December: Years 7, 8, 11 and support unit students
- Tuesday 10 December: Years 9, 10, 11 and support unit students
- Wednesday 11 December: Years 7, 8, 11 and support unit students
- Thursday 12 December: Years 9, 10, 11 and support unit students
- Friday 13 December: All students return



All staff will be onsite. Learning from home will continue via Google Classroom on the days when students are not scheduled to attend in person.

Classes that would normally be held in the affected classrooms will be relocated to other available rooms in the school.

Cleaning

Specialist contractors began cleaning the affected rooms on Wednesday 4 December with the use of deodorisers and drying equipment.

Further cleaning and necessary carpet removal and replacement will occur across the weekend of 7 and 8 December.

Contractors temporarily boarded up all broken and damaged windows on Thursday 5 December, and permanent replacements will be installed by Tuesday 10 December.

All identified electrical hazards were isolated on Wednesday, with any damaged electrical items to be removed or secured by the end of today (Friday 6 December).

Remediation

An independent hygienist began inspecting the affected rooms on Thursday 5 December.

The hygienist identified suspected bonded asbestos in the putty of a window in a science lab (ER1011) on level 1 of Building E. The putty was removed the same date with air monitoring in place while the work was carried out.

The hygienist will return to complete further inspections of classrooms and staffrooms on level 1 of Building G on Sunday 8 December and Monday 9 December, once cleaning has finished.

The science lab identified above, the demountable classroom (OS 601 13 994) and all classrooms and staffrooms on the ground floor of Building G will continue to remain out of bounds.

The hygienist has advised that all contents in the staffroom on the ground floor of Building G are unable to be recovered.

All work involving asbestos-containing materials will take place within school hours with safety measures in place.



NSW Health explains that “living or working with asbestos, or just being around it, is a low risk to your health as long as the asbestos is in good condition and not damaged”.

For more information on asbestos and health risks please visit the NSW Health website.

All work will be done in accordance with work health and safety laws and the NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan. Safety measures will be in place while work is being done. All work will be completed by licensed asbestos contractors and monitored by independent hygienists.

The rooms will be inspected by the independent hygienist to confirm they have been fully remediated, and a clearance certificate will be issued before they are reopened.

The health, safety, and wellbeing of the school and the local community is our highest priority. We will keep the community updated.

If you have any questions, please contact the department on the details below.

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.