



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

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52nd CST activated to assist in West Virginia

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Ohio National Guard's 52nd Civil Support Team (CST) was activated Friday in response to last week's water contamination incident in the Charleston, W.Va., area. Seven members of the 52nd CST have been working around the clock drawing water samples from across the Kanawha Valley to determine levels of contamination remaining in local water supply.

Ohio Guard members are working alongside CSTs from West Virginia, Tennessee and the District of Columbia, as well as other elements of the West Virginia National Guard, civilian chemists and West Virginia American Water employees. As of Monday figures, about 535 Airmen and Soldiers were working to ease the crisis.

Sampling teams continue to travel to multiple locations throughout the nine impacted counties in southwestern West Virginia. Ohio's CST should complete its mission sometime early this week.

"The members of the 52nd CST have been instrumental in providing technical assistance in the midst of this unfortunate incident," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Suver, 52nd CST commander. "Our laboratory personnel have received countless hours of technical training to effectively respond to situations such as this one. Currently, we're working with several other laboratories to determine the amount of a certain chemical that spilled into the water supply, and when the water will be safe to be consumed by the citizens in West Virginia's affected areas."

The mission of the CST is to support civil authorities at domestic Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive (CBRNE) or natural disaster incident sites by assessing current and projected consequences, identifying CBRNE agents/substances, advising on response measures and assisting with appropriate requests for state and federal support.

NEWSROOM NOTE: News media are encouraged to arrive at least 30 minutes in advance of the scheduled start time.

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