



NEWS RELEASE

Date: January 20, 2007
Release: Immediately
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(Residents Evacuated During Natural Gas Leak)

At 4:06 pm today, TVF&R firefighters were dispatched to a natural gas line that had been ruptured by a backhoe operator working in a new housing development at 202nd Terrace and Farmington Road in Aloha. When crews from Fire Station 62 arrived minutes later they could hear the "hissing" of the broken two inch high-pressure line and detect a strong odor of natural gas over 20 yards away. They immediately called for two additional units - bringing 12 firefighters to the scene - and began to evacuate a dozen homes on 202nd Terrace and Kim Place. In addition, Farmington Road was closed between 209th Avenue and 198th Avenue.

Northwest Natural arrived on scene at 4:45 pm and had the gas turned off within 30 minutes. Prior to letting residents back into their home, TVF&R firefighters with specialized air monitors, walked throughout the neighborhood checking around homes, garages and porches for traces of natural gas. Residents were let back into their home at approximately 5:30 pm, once air quality levels were deemed safe by firefighters.

The 20 residents evacuated from their home during the incident were taken to Hazeldale Elementary School across the street. Hazeldale's principal was contacted by fire crews and responded to the scene to open up the school's cafeteria for the displaced residents.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue has responded to four natural gas leaks in the past two months. All of the incidents have resulted in a small number of residents being evacuated for a short time.

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