

NEWS RELEASE

Release: Immediately

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(Fire District Responds to Ruptured Gas Line Near Sherwood)

At 7:28 a.m. today, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue was dispatched to a reported gas leak behind the Tri-County Gun Club located at 13050 S.W. Tonquin Road. When crews from Sherwood Station 223 arrived at the site, they found a 30-ft. geyser of gasoline spraying from an 8-inch high-pressure pipe in the ground and a trackhoe operator who told crews that he had ruptured the pipeline while digging a road. Firefighters immediately cordoned off the area and contacted the gun club, and Northfork Excavation Inc. and Morse Brothers, two rock quarry operations near the gun club. Firefighters also called for additional resources including the District's Hazardous Materials Team and a team of personnel to oversee planning and logistical functions. Contact was also made with the pipeline, Kinder Morgan Energy Partners (based in Orange, California) and a command post was established at the District's Regional Training Center located about ½ mile from the site of the gasoline leak.

Pipeline crews were able to shut off valves on each side of the break by 9 a.m. Until the gas could be shut off, the District was concerned about ignition sources especially at the rock quarries, which use dynamite in their operations. The quarries were advised to suspend all operations. In addition to the potential of a fire, the District also dealt with individuals from nearby businesses complaining about the smell of fumes. Individuals reporting a strong smell of gasoline were advised to leave their business or home and get fresh air. No individuals were treated for medical problems related to the incident.

The pipe is a multi-product line that transports diesel and unleaded gasoline continuously between Portland and Eugene at a rate of 100,800 gallons per hour. It is unknown how much gasoline was actually lost from the broken pipeline. It is thought that while some of the gasoline was spraying from the broken pipe, some of the product may have still continued to flow down the pipeline. Kinder Morgan Energy Partners is contracting with Loy Clark Pipeline to repair the pipe, which they expect to have back in service within 24-36 hours. Cowlitz Clean Sweep and FOSS Environmental, both of Portland, were called to the scene to assist with clean-up services.