



INCIDENT NEWS RELEASE

Release Date / Time: 6/23/2009 6:44 PM

Incident Type: Natural Gas Release

Incident Location: Intersection of West and Cross Sts.

Incident Date/Time: June 23, 2009 / 1032 hrs.

Incident Number: 2138

At approximately 1030hrs Tuesday morning a City of Woodland Public Works Employee was preparing to re-stripe the intersection of West St and Cross St. The re-striping process requires the use of thermal application in the form of a propane torch. After the employee lit the torch he noticed a two foot flame admitting from a storm drain access cover in the center of the intersection, indicating a flammable environment under the city streets. The employee placed an old street sign over the cover to smother the fire, and made notification of the hazardous environment. Woodland Public Works requested the Woodland Fire Department to assist in investigating the hazardous condition.

Once Woodland Engine 4 arrived, both Public Works and the Fire Department determined through the use of gas monitoring equipment that a substantial amount of gas was leaking into the city's infrastructure underneath the street. Woodland Fire requested Woodland P.D to assist with traffic and crowd control and confirmed that PG and E where en route and Engine 4 prepared for fire attack as a precaution. The amount of gas under the street was significant enough to displace most of the oxygen in the storm drain which made the environment to rich to burn, until it reached street level and mixed with the oxygen in the atmosphere. Yet the amount of natural gas that was leaking was enough to evacuate a small number of residences on the east side of West St between Cross St and Park Ave.

The Woodland Fire Department and Public Works Department established unified command to manage the incident. Once PG and E arrived on scene they began searching for the leak and once the leak had been narrowed down to a more specific location they began digging in the street to find the leak and pinch the pipe to stop the release and prepare for replacement of the pipe. PG and E advised that they would be working through the night to fix the leak, yet at around 2pm PG and E advised that the evacuation order could be lifted due to the dissipation of the natural gas. The Woodland Fire Department and Public Works Department turned the incident over to PG and E.

Released By: Ken Bechthold, Battalion
Chief

Contact: Ken Bechthold

(530) 661-5865