



South Strabane Township

Department of Fire & Emergency Management

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Methane Readings – Scout Drive – **UPDATE #3**

Thursday, November 10th, 2022, South Strabane Township, PA

On Tuesday, November 8th, the PA DEP, Columbia Gas, and South Strabane Fire & Emergency Services returned to Scout Drive to continue investigation of the ongoing issue. While onsite, the DEP obtained readings from the two homes and made additional plans for operations on Wednesday. Chief Cramer notified the Red Cross of the situation in order to discuss temporary housing measures for the homeowner that had gas service disconnected on Monday.

Crews returned on Wednesday, November 9th to meet with representatives from DEP, Columbia Gas, and the PUC to discuss the issues and the process moving forward. Additional metering was performed with slightly lower results; however, levels of the gas were still present. The decision was made to install a temporary exterior vent in front of one of the homes, and to isolate the power to outlet receptacles in the area where concentrations were highest. After these safety measures were taken, Chief Cramer gave Columbia Gas approval to restore gas services to the home so the resident would be able to remain in their own home safely.

On Thursday, November 10th, the PA DEP and their contractor returned to the area to install a positive pressure ventilation system in the home with the highest concentration and they plan to seal the homes' foundations. These actions are being taken to mitigate the gases and ensure a safe environment for the residents. Scout Drive residents are reminded that all agencies involved with this incident are in agreement that the neighborhood is safe.

Residents in the area may see additional crews in the coming days installing other safety measures on the two homes and investigating the actual source of the stray gas; however, the priority at this time is mitigation and to ensure a safe environment.