



South Strabane Township
Department of Fire & Emergency Management
Jordan J. Cramer | Chief

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Methane Readings – Scout Drive

Saturday, November 5th, South Strabane Township, PA

On Friday, November 4th, 2022, Chief Cramer was notified by Columbia Gas (CG) that during a routine metering a week prior to this date, CG detected gas near homes on Scout Drive. CG continued monitoring the situation throughout the week and on Friday, noted positive readings inside of a home on Scout Drive. Based on these results, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and South Strabane Fire & Emergency Services were notified.

Columbia Gas sent samples for testing and at this time, it is not believed to be their natural gas, however it is believed to include low levels of methane, a potentially explosive gas when the concentration is high enough. Upon arrival, the DEP requested that CG dig a temporary vent outside of the home, in hopes to decrease methane levels inside. DEP personnel metered (3) homes, with positive findings in two of them. South Strabane Township Fire & Emergency Management provided these residents with combination carbon monoxide & explosive gas detectors, and they were advised to dial 9-1-1 if the meters went into alarm. The DEP advised they would not return until Monday for further investigation.

On the morning of Saturday, November 5th, Chief Cramer received a direct call from one of the residents stating that their alarm had activated. South Strabane fire crews responded and confirmed positive readings in the home. The DEP was notified, and a representative returned to the scene. Once again, readings were present in (2) homes, and (4) other homes were checked with no positive findings.

At this time, the exact source of the gas is unknown, and the DEP will continue investigating on Monday. Several potential causes exist including capped DEP vertical wells, natural gas, and other sources. There is no immediate threat to life safety, however South Strabane officials are taking this incident very seriously.

In an abundance of caution, on Sunday, November 6th, South Strabane Township Fire and Emergency Services, in conjunction with the Washington County Department of Public Safety will meter all homes on Scout Drive to determine the full scope of the methane release occurring in the neighborhood.

Again – residents are not in immediate danger and regular updates will be released as more information is obtained. Residents or media requesting more information can contact Chief Cramer at 724-914-5470.