

Ruptured gas line causes evacuation in Goodland



About six blocks of central Goodland were evacuated Wednesday afternoon due to a ruptured gas line in the alley behind First National Bank.

The call came in about 3 p.m. of a major gas leak. A work crew using a boring machine had struck a gas line. First National and the post office were immediately evacuated along with homes on the other side of the alley.

Fire Chief Brian James set up a command post at 11th Street and Broadway Avenue. The Sherman County Sheriff's Office provided their mobile command center, which was parked at the post office.

Crews from Black Hills Energy worked to reduce the danger from the leak, including installation of a pipe to divert the gas higher into the air. The strong winds aided emergency personnel by helping to disperse the gas.

The Fire Department evacuated about six blocks, from 10th to 12th Streets between Main and Caldwell Avenues. Evacuees were sent to United Methodist Church. Several residents were escorted to and from their homes for emergency needs.

Emergency responders also blocked off the roads one block

south of the evacuation area. Central Elementary School was not evacuated, but school administrators were told to make sure children didn't enter the area when they were released at the end of the school day.

The Sherman County Rural Fire Department was paged out to help at 3:13 p.m. The Police Department assisted in providing traffic control and an ambulance was put on standby at the church. Also assisting were the Goodland Public Works Department, Sherman County Emergency Management, the Sherman County Health department and the National Weather Service.

The American Red Cross sent an emergency response vehicle with food as well as four volunteers from Hays.

Black Hills Energy continued to work on the leak into the night. Lights were set up to allow them to continue working after dark.

Residents in the block south of First National Bank, from 11th to 12th from Broadway to Caldwell, were allowed to return home at 5 p.m., but homes on the 10th to 11th Street remained evacuated due to the plume from the gas line.

The all clear was given at 7:45 p.m.



MEMBERS OF THE Cheyenne County Volunteer Fire Department and Cheyenne County Emergency Services participated in training exercises on Saturday, Oct. 20. Above, Firemen prepare the jaws of life to take the top off a car to get an injured person out. Below, Mark Mills and Aubrey Mills practice the proper way to cart an injured person away.

Herald staff photos by Nathan Fiala

Check us out on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/TheSaintFrancisHerald

Look for the new hunting guide in this issue of The Herald

ACROSS

- Workbench gripper
- Take rudely
- Con job
- Lofty lair
- Casino city
- Hankering
- Places for plaques
- Familiar with
- Bog fuel
- ACE
- Singer James or Jones
- Demolition need
- Let out, as fishing line
- Daytona 500 org.
- Boxing ring boundaries
- Baltic Sea feeder
- With cubes
- Marsh plant
- Edgar, painter of ballerinas
- Mil. mail drop
- Bald tire's lack
- After-school 66-Across, e.g.
- Stinging remark
- Peddle in the bleachers
- __-face (show of affection)
- Fuel provides it
- Syrian city
- Sis's sib
- __ sci (coll. major)
- ACE
- Place for a cooling pie
- Horn sound
- Stiller's mate
- Twistable cookie
- Slaughter in baseball
- Passion
- Shipped off
- __ a soul (no one)

DOWN

- Crow's cry
- Wife of Jacob
- Folk's Guthrie
- Place for grist
- Pre-euro Barcelona buck
- Sty sound
- Taken-back car
- Auth. unknown
- Cram for an exam
- ACE
- Minotaur's home
- Playing marble
- Heavy __ music
- Calvary letters
- Digs made of twigs
- Silent assents
- Yemeni port
- Nintendo rival
- ACE
- Satisfy, as a debt
- Limburger emanation
- Semi compartments
- "In the headlights" critter
- "West Side Story" faction
- Whirling water
- Go directly from first to third grade, say
- Titanic totaler
- Use saddle soap on, say
- 98.6° body temperature-wise
- Lhasa __ (Tibetan dogs)
- River of Tours
- Barkin or Burstyn
- __ Wetsy (old doll)
- Scottish isle
- The Koh-i-__ diamond
- Prefix with dyne or drome
- Carpentry groove
- Libidinous god
- "__ you for real?"

American Profile Hometown Content 10/21/2012

What should I do if I suspect a natural gas leak?
- Jen asked us

That's an important question, Jen.
While natural gas has an excellent safety record, accidents or misuse of natural gas appliances and equipment could cause a leak. You can't see a leak, but you should be able to smell it. Many people say the odorant we add to natural gas smells like rotten eggs.

If you ever think you smell natural gas:

- Get everyone out of the building immediately - leave the door open as you exit.
- Call Black Hills Energy or 911 from outside using a cell phone or your neighbor's phone.
- Don't touch switches for lights or other electric appliances, and don't use a phone inside the building. Any spark can cause ignition.
- Remain outside the building until emergency personnel arrives.

If you smell natural gas, leave immediately and then call Black Hills Energy's 24-hour emergency number at 800-694-8989.

For more energy tips, go to www.blackhillsenergy.com.

Improving life with energy