

## News Release

Date: March 23, 2010

Contact: Dawn Johnson, Public Information Officer

### Shoppers Evacuated after Natural Gas Leak

Shoppers at the Fred Meyer store on Tenney Road in Salmon Creek were evacuated this morning after a natural gas pipe broke and started leaking. A forklift operator was loading freight around 7:00 a.m. when he accidentally hit the gas pipe. The pipe broke in half and a unit heater was pulled from the ceiling. Commercial buildings have high pressure pipes that carry about five times more gas than residential pipes. The gas was shutoff and Fire District 6 assisted in evacuating the building while Northwest Natural investigated the leak. They capped the pipe just before 8:00am and it was determined that the building was safe for people to reenter.

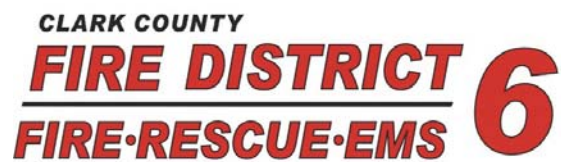
Remember natural gas smells of rotten eggs and any odor of natural gas inside your home or business may indicate a leak. If you smell rotten eggs, evacuate the area and call 911 from a phone away from the suspected leak. Telephones and any electrical devices that have a battery could ignite gas. Do not operate ANY electrical switch, including lights, on or off, because they too could be an ignition source. I've included pictures from today's response.

For further information contact:

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