



Michael Jessen, Emergency Services Director
michael.jessen@co.richland.wi.us

Office 608-647-8187
Fax 608-647-7151

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

At approximately 10:08hrs on June 5, 2024, the Richland Center Fire Department was dispatched to the 24000 blk of Co Hwy 58 for a report of a propane leak.

Upon arrival fire crews located a natural gas service line near a residence had been struck by a contractor performing ground work. Due to the nature of the leak, varying wind conditions, and unknown ETA of utility service provider, the immediate area was evacuated with the assistance of Richland County Sheriff's Office. Evacuations included private residences, a day care, and a few faculty members at Ithica High School. Due to the scope of the incident Richland County Emergency Management also responded to the scene. Richland County Ambulance Service also responded to establish a reunification point for families of the day care students that were evacuated.

Upon arrival of the utility service provider, crews located low level natural gas readings in the storm drains directly across from the broken service line. The leak was mitigated by the utility service provider at 11:48hrs. All structures in the area were assessed for the presence of natural gas and 1 residence was ventilated due to low level readings. The storm drain system was also ventilated. A third assessment for gas readings found no natural gas present in the area structures or storm drain. Incident was deemed under control at 12:21hrs and all responding units cleared.

Questions in regards to this incident can be directed to Director Michael Jessen at 608.604.7736 or Michael.jessen@co.richland.wi.us

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