

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Press Release for January 29, 2009

Date: January 29, 2009
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REPORT OF SUSPICIOUS ODOR

Late this morning numerous calls were received by Downey Police and Fire communications centers. Some calls were also received at City Hall. Callers reported the odor as natural gas, sewer gas or roofing tar. The callers reported the smell in a wide area band across the entire City with a north boundary of Firestone Blvd and a south boundary of the Imperial Highway corridor.

The Gas Company and the AQMD were immediately notified as fire department personnel were responding to investigate the incident. The responding fire crew did not find the source of the problem. However, the fire crew did confirm there was an unnatural odor in the area. The gas Company dispatched three crews to investigate the reports as well. They also did not find a source of the odor.

Earlier in the morning, the Gas Company received similar types of reports in Bell Gardens. No problem was found when the Gas Company and the LACoFD investigated the problem.

The responding units in Downey did confirm the problem was not the result of a gas line rupture as supply line pressures throughout the area remained normal. Callers explained they were concerned about the potential explosiveness of the problem. When queried with the callers concerns, Gas Company representatives advised they were conducting air monitoring in the area and had not found any evidence of a potentially dangerous situation. Fire Department responders did not find dangerous conditions either.

There were no calls for Emergency Medical Services as a result of the suspicious odor. Had a health or explosive problem been detected at any time, City staff and resources would have significantly increased their level of response.

By 1 pm the suspicious odor had dissipated and calls for service ceased.