Railroad Commission of Texas Pipeline Evaluation System Investigation Report

Inspection Package ID = 32331

Incident ID: 93

Contacts

Company ID: 6776 Company Name: ATMOS ENERGY CORP., MID-TEX DIVISION

Alternate Company Name:

Contact Type	Name	Company / Affiliation	Phone Number
Pipeline Operator	Al Hernandez	ATMOS ENERGY CORP., MID-TEX DIVISION	469-442-5146
Onsite Contact	Jerry kemp	ATMOS ENERGY CORP., MID-TEX DIVISION	214-316-4562

Incident Detail

Investigation Status: Closed

Date of Incident: 5/29/07 5:04 PM Drill? No

Date Reported: 5/29/07 6:35 PM

Inspector Notified Date: 5/29/07 8:00 PM Assigned Inspector: Jody Kerl

Incident Location

Nearest City: Cleburne

Location/Street Address: 632 Woodard

Region: Fort Worth

County: JOHNSON

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Notes
Synopsis

On Tuesday, May 29, 2007, at approximately 5:04 p.m., a structure fire and explosion occurred at 632 Woodard Ave. in Cleburne, Texas. There were three injuries and two fatalities as a result of the incident. Natural gas concentrations were found along the street in front of the residence and gas migration was detected along the driveway and towards the house. Subsequent investigation revealed natural gas leaks were found on a vacant service stub compression coupling and two vacant service taps. That natural gas distribution system is owned and operated by Atmos Energy Corp.

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Operator - 30 Day Report

Part A-Key Report Information by operator

Report is final? Yes

OPS Operator Identification Number: 31348

NRC Number (from Incident Detail):

Volume of commodity released unintentionally: 0

Volume of commodity released intentionally: 0

Volume of commodity recovered: 0

Fatalities? Yes

Operator employees:

Contractor employees working for the Operator:

Non-Operator emergency responders:

Workers working on the right-of-way, but NOT associated with this Operator:

General Public: 2

Total Fatalities:

Injuries requiring inpatient hospitalization? Yes

Operator employees:

Contractor employees working for the Operator:

Non-Operator emergency responders:

Workers working on the right-of-way, but NOT associated with this Operator:

General Public: 3

Total Injuries:

Part C-Additional Facility Information by operator

Incident Occured On:

Failure Occured On:

Material Involved:

Install Year:

Part D-Additional Consequence Information by operator

HCA or USA? No

Public and non-operator costs:

Cost of commodity unintentionally released:

Cost of commodity intentionally released:

Cost of property damage and repair:

Cost of emergency response:

Cost of environmental remediation:

Other costs:

Total costs:

Part G-Apparent Cause from operator

Incident Cause (Confirmed): Other Incident Cause Investigation complete

Sub-cause: Unknown

Part H-Operator Incident Summary

THE CAUSE OF THE LEAK IS STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION. WHAT IS KNOWN AS OF THE DATE OF THIS REPORT IS THAT GAS WAS ESCAPING FROM A COMPRESSION COUPLING CONNECTING THE SERVICE STUB TO THE TAP. AN EXPLOSION OCCURRED AT 632 WOODARD ST.

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UPDATE - 2/20/09 - THE CAUSE OF THIS EVENT APPEARS TO BE THE RESULT OF A COMBINATION OF FACTORS THAT WAS NOT READILY FORESEEABLE. DURING ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION'S INVESTIGATION SUBSEQUENT TO THE INCIDENT, THREE LEAKS WERE FOUND AND REPAIRD ON WOODARD AVENUE. HOWEVER, THERE IS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THAT GAS ESCAPING FROM THESE LOCATIONS (632 WOODARD, 634 WOODARD, 700 WOODARD) WAS SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH TO RELEASE GAS RAPIDLY ENOUGH TO HAVE CAUSED THE INCIDENT. ADDITIONALLY, THE LEAK LOCATED POST-ACCIDENT AT 632 WOODARD WAS DETERMINED TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY A MANUFACTURING OR MACHINING DEFECT IN THE RELAVANT COUPLING THAT WAS VISIBLE TO THE ORIGIONAL INSTALLER. ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION'S INVESTIGATION HAS ALSO RESULTED IN THE DETERMINATION THAT THE OCCUPANTS OF 632 WOODARD WERE AWARE OF A POTENTIAL HAZARD WHEN THEY CONTACTED LOCAL FIRE AUTHORITIES, BUT DISREGARDED IN STRUCTIONS BY SUCH AUTHORTIES IN LIGHTING ADDITIONAL CIGARETTES.