



CITY OF WATERTOWN, NEW YORK
FIRE DEPARTMENT
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PRESS RELEASE

At approximately 12:12 this afternoon, Police, Fire and Ambulance units were dispatched by Jefferson County Dispatch for a motor vehicle accident involving a pedestrian. When the first units arrive, they found multiple vehicles involved and that Knowlton Technologies building had been struck. A closer examination of the Knowlton structure revealed that a natural gas pipe within the building had been compromised and was leaking natural gas into their building.

Knowlton's activated their safety evacuation plan and additional fire resources responded to evacuate nearby businesses. Watertown Police diverted traffic from the area and Public works responded with barricades. National Grid gas personnel initially tried to stop the gas leak by closing a street valve, but attempts to close the valve were unsuccessful and additional heavy equipment responded to excavate the site. Shortly after 2 pm, the valve was closed and both Knowlton's and the evacuated nearby business were checked for gas reading.

If no readings were detected, building occupation was allowed, if readings were detected, then ventilation was performed until gas readings were within acceptable limits.

The second vehicle involved suffered significant damage that created a fuel spill along the Mill Street Bridge span. DEC Spill Response was called and advised to use absorbent to collect the spilled material.

At 3 pm, fire units were clearing, however Mill Street will remain closed until National Grid has cleared.

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