



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Update on H<sub>2</sub>S gas leak situation**

Norfolk County, ON – August 28, 2017 – The Norfolk County Taskforce continues to meet and respond to the situation surrounding the leak of Hydrogen Sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S) from natural gas wells in an area between Silver Hill and Langton.

At high concentrations, humans lose the ability to smell Hydrogen Sulphide, which is lethal and flammable, so the lack of a “rotten egg smell” in an area does not mean the gas is not present. Conversely, “the rotten egg smell” can be present when concentrations are at a level that does not pose a threat to human health.

Citizens who believe a well is leaking H<sub>2</sub>S should contact the Spills Action Centre of the Ontario Ministry of Environment by calling 1-800-268-6060 (toll-free) or 416-325-3000.

Norfolk County has established an information resource titled “Risks of Hydrogen Sulphide”, with assistance from the Haldimand & Norfolk Health Unit. Residents can find a link to this resource on the front page of [norfolkcounty.ca](http://norfolkcounty.ca) and [hnhu.org](http://hnhu.org).

Residents are urged to stay away from the areas identified along North Walsingham Concession 10 between Forestry Farm Road and East Quarterline Road until further notice. The road has been closed and six households have been ordered to evacuate by the Medical Officer of Health. The Office of the Fire Marshall and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change continue to monitor gas levels in the area.

The exclusion zone also prohibits anyone from entering the area on foot, on any type of vehicle (farm tractors, 4WD trucks, all-terrain vehicles, bicycles, motorcycles, horses, etc.) or vessel (boats, canoes or kayaks on Big Creek). O.P.P. remain vigilant and continue to provide policing services to the affected area.

Updates on the situation will be posted on [norfolkcounty.ca](http://norfolkcounty.ca) under “Media Releases” and on the Norfolk County’s Emergency Information Site Facebook page.

Norfolk County wishes to thank the following agencies for their ongoing effort, support, collaboration and service to the Norfolk community:

Office of the Ontario Fire Marshall and Emergency Management  
Ministry of Natural Resource and Forestry  
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change  
Ontario Provincial Police  
Ministry Health and Long-Term Care  
Public Health Ontario

Affected residents will receive ongoing communication directly from Norfolk County officials. Other residents are asked to visit [norfolkcounty.ca/emergency](http://norfolkcounty.ca/emergency) for information, or to call 519-427-5910.

A Special Meeting of Norfolk County Council on Tuesday, August 29, 2017, at 3:00 pm, has been called to review the situation and provide strategic decision-making with respect to future implications.

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