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REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY**
INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED FIRE AGENCY
Matthew Morris Fire Chief

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Natural Gas Leak Indoors

Kent, Wash – July 29, 2019

Today at 10:24 AM Puget Sound Fire units were dispatched to a natural gas leak inside a warehouse in the 27200 block of 72 Ave S. According to a forklift driver, he was lifting a pallet of material and his vision was obstructed. He accidentally struck the gas supply line to the ceiling mounted gas heater causing a leak. The broken gas line was reported immediately to 911.

The dispatch for a natural gas leak inside a structure is two units with a Hazardous Materials team for air monitoring. At the time of the call the first due engine, Engine 71, was already on another incident. The first Hazardous Materials team, HM76 was also already on an incident with a fuel spill. The initial dispatch for the Natural gas leak sent Engine 74, Ladder 74, and HM 14 from Renton RFA as well as District 7 as a command officer. While units were still responding HM 76 was able to finish their previous incident and were added to the call, cancelling the Renton resource.

Upon location the first arriving unit found a large warehouse with the gas still leaking. The building was evacuated, gas supply shut off, and air monitoring performed while natural ventilation was used to remove the flammable gas. Due to the size of the facility an additional engine company was requested, and E31 from Valley Regional Fire Authority was dispatched to assist. Puget Sound Energy was also on location.

This response is a good example of how mutual aid works to best serve the customers by having the closest, most appropriate units dispatched and other units working together to provide the necessary coverage. It is also a good reminder to know where your natural gas shut off is and how to shut it off in an emergency.

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MEDIA CONTACT: Captain Joe Root, PIO
24611 116th Avenue SE, Kent, Washington 98030
Desk 253.856.4481 - Cell 206.972.4082