

Frequently Asked Questions

What caused the home explosion?

The cause of the explosion was unrefined, non-odorized gas that entered the home from an abandoned gas flow line that had not been disconnected from an oil and gas well head and capped.

How do I know that my home is safe?

Our residents' safety is our top priority, and we understand the concern this tragedy has caused the Firestone community. We have been working diligently to ensure the safety of neighbors through extensive monitoring and testing of both air and soil in the neighborhood. These tests have concluded that there is no additional contamination in the area.

Is there anything I can do to monitor my home for an odorless gas leak?

There are devices available that can detect both gas and carbon monoxide (CO₂). Combustible gas detectors are just one measure of precaution. These detectors monitor for the gas itself, not the odorizing agent that is used in the gas that comes out of the meter.

Different gases have different properties. Some gases, such as propane, are heavier than air and will sink to the lowest point. Other gases, such as methane, are lighter than air and will rise to the highest point. If you are considering installing detectors in your home, it is recommended that you purchase two, so that one detector can be placed near the floor in the lowest level of the house, typically the basement, and the other detector can be placed on the ceiling at the highest level of your home. Most of these detectors detect several types of gas. You will want to look for a model that detects natural gas, propane, methane and carbon monoxide (CO₂). Here is an example of one such unit.

Link: http://www.homedepot.com/p/Kidde-AC-Plug-In-Gas-Carbon-Monoxide-Detector-with-Battery-Back-Up-2-Pack-KN-COEG-3/202865703?cm_mmc=Shopping%7cTHD%7cG%7c0%7cG-BASE-PLA-D27E-SecuritySurveillance%7c&qclid=Cj0KEQjwuZvIBRD-8Z6B2M2Sy68BEiQAtjYS3HofZSoUruWBxzQYPO0d_Rj9uiqorZjXw0rB0imZ0REaAgav8P8HAQ&qclsrc=aw.ds

Please check your local hardware stores for the correct type of detector. Please be sure to have every detector installed by a qualified technician in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

What are the next steps in the investigation?

Now that the Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District has completed its investigation into the origin and cause of this incident, the Firestone Police Department will move forward with the next steps of its investigation, which when completed will be turned over to the Weld County District Attorney.

What about abandoned wells?

According to the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) an abandoned well is no longer a producing well and all pipelines that were once connected to the well are cut and capped. The steel pipe, or well casing, that once came from the ground and was connected to the well valves is cut 4 ft. underground and then injected with cement. The top of the pipe is then capped and welded shut. Lastly, all of the service equipment (valves, etc) is removed from the well so it can no longer produce, or flow product from the ground into lines. Since an abandoned well has no lines attached to it AND can no longer flow oil and gas, there is no danger of an occurrence similar to the April 17 explosion happening with an abandoned well

Where can I find additional information?

We have created a Community Updates page on the Town of Firestone website, where we will publish announcements and resources as information becomes available. In addition, updates will be posted on the Firestone, Colorado Facebook page.