

**FREDERICK-FIRESTONE  
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*May 5, 2017*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

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### **Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District Statement on the Governor's Directive**

The Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District supports the Governor's directive to oil and gas operators to thoroughly locate, inspect, and test all oil and gas lines within 1,000 of buildings within the state. We are encouraged by the swiftness and thoroughness in which the Governor and the COGCC have acted to take these initial and immediate steps to ensure there are no replicable similar circumstances present in ours or any other community. The Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District will continue to share our findings on origin and cause with state and federal regulatory and investigative agencies as we continue to assist the Firestone Police Department in the ongoing investigation. Our commitment is to continue to do our part to ensure this never befalls another family or community.

Through our findings to date, we have uncovered a tragic set of circumstances that came together taking the lives of two very dear and loved family and community members. First and foremost, in those findings was that an abandoned line was not disconnected from the source of gas flow and properly identified and capped at the well. Without a source of gas, the abandoned lines would not have been a hazard since there would be no product in them. Because the gas flow continued in a line that was abandoned, the cutting of that line created the secondary hazard. It is for these reasons that the Governor's Directive issued yesterday is so important. It addresses both issues that were identified in our investigation which came together to create the tragic explosion that occurred on April 17.

We cannot undo the events of April 17, and therefore we owe it to the memories of Mark Martinez and Joey Irwin, their families and all current and future Coloradoans to work together

to learn everything we can and apply all of that collective knowledge to ensure our homes and our communities are safe. The Fire District understands the anxiety, sadness, and fear this incident has created in our community. We want to stress that the only hazard was at the point of the cut line, since it was the closest point to the source of the gas flow and there was no leak beyond the point of the two homes identified. Our investigators have been very precise in their identification of the origin and cause of this in order to provide facts and reassure our community. Equally important to the process moving forward if we are to focus every effort on meaningful prevention is to respond to the facts and not speculation or opinion that only increases fear.

As we continue to work through this methodical investigation that involves multiple local, state and federal agencies, our goal is to ensure no piece of evidence is overlooked and no procedure is missed to ensure we gather every fact possible to identify the chain of events that led to the loss of two of our citizens, and critical injuries to another. This process is our most necessary effort to ensure our communities remain safe.

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#### ABOUT THE FREDERICK-FIRESTONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

The Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District (FFFPD) is governed by an elected Citizen Board of Directors and provides fire suppression, emergency medical, specialized rescue, and fire protection, prevention and education services to residents and businesses within the Town of Frederick, the Town of Firestone and unincorporated portions of Weld County, Colorado. For more information about the Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District, please contact FFFPD Community Outreach Specialist Summer Campos at 303-833-2742 or by email at [scampos@fffd.us](mailto:scampos@fffd.us). The Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District Business and Education Center is located at 8426 Kosmerl Place, in Frederick, Colo.