



# Gates Mills Fire Department

P. Thomas Robinson, Chief    Office: 440-423-4405    Fax: 440-423-2001

## A HISTORY OF GAS WELL INCIDENTS IN GATES MILLS

### **July 3, 1984 @ 11:11 hours.**

At 34001 Cedar Road (Gilmour Academy) a worker welding at the gas well sparks a fire. Responding Fire Departments include Gates Mills, Mayfield Heights, Lyndhurst, and Mayfield Village. Upon arrival the fire was burning mildly, the fire began to increase in intensity and then an explosion followed. The piping that initially was burning blew off and the full pressure of the gas well began to burn uncontrollably. The fire ball is now covering an area approximately 50 by 50 feet. All FD units set up for a defensive operation. Hazard abated at approximately 02:00 hours on July 4, 1984.

### **July 5, 1984 through March 22, 2006. No reported Gas Well Incidents.**

### **March 23, 2006 @ 20:44 hours.**

Report of the odor of gas in the area of Gilmour Academy. Units from Pepper Pike FD also checking the area. Problem found to be gas well drilling at the Gates Mills Boulevard Teardrop site. Ohio Valley Energy crews expect to be completed in the "next few days".

**September 14, 2006 @ 21:19 hours.**

Report of an “explosion and smell of gas” in the area of 7120 Old Mill Road. Twelve members of the fire department responded with Engines #1411 and #1412 and car #1471. While enroute to the scene, Bass Energy (the site owner) was contacted by Chief Robinson (command). A representative of Bass Energy was requested to report to the scene (7150 Old Mill Road) and meet with Chief Robinson. A forty-minute ETA was given for the Bass Energy representative. E-1411 was ordered to establish a “safe” perimeter by command. The police department checked any effected houses. 2.5-inch fire control/safety lines from E-1411 were advanced to the wellhead. E-1412 was backed into position at E-1411 to be used as a water supply and for possible 5-inch supply if needed. A large volume of gas at high pressure was escaping at the wellhead. There was no detectable wind at the site and a large cloud of gas was visible above the area. Mr. Gregory from Bass Energy met with Chief Robinson and the incident action plan was developed. Safety crews manned the 2.5 hose while Mr. Gregory entered the wellhead enclosure to shut off the main valve. After this was accomplished the cause of the leak was determined to be a mechanical failure at the pipe connection exiting the main shut off valve. This resulted in a 2-inch opening in the line at the top of the well. Bass Energy estimated the gas pressure exiting the well to be approximately 1000 psi. The area surrounding the well will be cleaned and returned to its condition prior to the leak by Bass Energy. Bass Energy contacted at 21:31 on-scene at 22:09 hours (response time = 38 minutes).

**September 23, 2006 @ 08:07 hours.**

Report of the odor of gas coming from the gas well being drilled at 695 Racebrook Road. Ohio Valley Energy crews’ on-scene report this is due to the drilling operation.

**February 23, 2007 @ 21:46 hours.**

Report of loud hissing from the Gates Mills Boulevard Teardrop gas well. Gas leak possibly due to a frozen regulator. Ohio Valley Energy contacted by the FD personnel on the scene and advised on how to shut down the well. OVE will respond in the morning to complete repairs.

**April 9, 2007 @ 18:45 hours.**

Report of a loud hissing sound coming from the gas well at 36779 Cedar Road. The leak was due to a gasket failure. Bass Energy notified @ 19:09 hours and on-scene @ 19:19 hours (response time = 10 minutes). Gas well shut down by Bass Energy.

**May 18, 2007 @ 18:44 hours.**

Report of odor of gas and unusual sounds coming from the gas well at 6974 Gates Road. GMFD officer on-scene reports normal operation of the well and no hazard found. Ohio Valley Energy advised of the situation. (Suspected “burp” of the well)

**September 6, 2007 @ 21:18 hours.**

Report of a strong gas odor in the area of the gas well at 639 Battles Road. The drilling crew from Industry Standard reports “hitting a gas pocket” and will switch over to fluid to control further leaks.

**September 14, 2007 @ 06:34 hours.**

Report of the strong smell of gas in the area of 937 Chagrin River Road (Corbo Gas Well 973 chagrin River Rd.). The drilling crew from Cutter Oil Company reports hitting a gas pocket and will now switch over to fluid to control further leaks.

**September 23, 2007 @ 17:28 hours.**

Report of a loud noise coming from the gas well at 1275 Chagrin River Road. GMFD personnel found the regulator frozen and shut off the valve. Bass Energy advised of the situation. A worker from another drilling company arrived on-scene as a favor to Bass Energy and shut down the gas well.

**November 15, 2007 @ 01:06 hours.**

Report of a loud hissing noise coming from the gas well at 7670 Deerfield Road. Failure of a filter “O” ring (later determined to be of the wrong material) allowed high pressure gas to leak. Bass Energy contacted @ 01:07 hours and arrived on-scene at 02:14 hours (response time = 1 hour and 7 minutes). GMFD personnel shut off the valve at the tank battery.

**January 7, 2008 @ 16:19 hours.**

Report of a strong odor of gas in the area of the gas well tank battery at 7670 Deerfield Road. GMFD personnel found a quarter turn valve that drains the separator tank in the open position. Both gas and oil were venting from the tank. The valve was shut off by GMFD personnel. A crew had been at the well in the morning to remove the oil and brine water, and possibly hit the drain valve handle. Bass Energy was contacted at 16:25 hours and arrived on-scene at 16:59 hours (response time = 34 minutes). Bass Energy will have the surface oil removed by the oil and brine removal crew in the morning.

**January 7, 2008 @ 20:41 hours.**

Report of a “noise but no odor of gas” in the area of the gas well at 639 Battles Road. GMFD personnel found the relief valve located on top of a separator tank was opening approximately every 30 minutes and remaining open for about 3 seconds resulting in a loud “jet engine like” noise. Industry Standard was contacted at 20:41 hours and arrived on-scene at 23:25 hours (response time = 2 hours and 44 minutes). Industry Standard was updated on the situation by GMFD personnel on-scene at 21:20 hours.

**February 5, 2008 @ 03:20 hours.**

Report of the Gas Well at 639 Battles Road making noise but no odor of gas detected. This was a repeat of the same situation that occurred at this location on January 7, 2008. Industry Standard was contacted at 03:23 and arrived on scene at 05:07 (response time = 1 hour and 44 minutes). A follow-up telephone call was made by Chief Robinson to Industry Standard to ascertain why this problem had not been corrected after the previous incident. The representative from Industry Standard stated they are working with the manufacturer of the control valve that malfunctioned to remedy the problem.

**February 29, 2008 @ 05:37 hours.**

Report of the Gas Well at 6974 Gates Road making a hissing noise and the smell of natural gas in the area. Ohio Valley Energy was contacted at 05:46 and arrived on scene at 07:07 (response time = 1 hour and 21 minutes). The leak was coming from the tank battery. Both the sound and odor were fluctuating and the main valve at the well head was turned off by Fire Department personnel.

**April 6, 2008 @14:17 hours.**

Report of the odor of gas and noise coming from the Gas Well located at Town Hall. The leak was coming from the regulator for the supply line to the Village Complex. Ohio Valley Energy (O.V.E.) was contacted at 14:20 and arrived on scene at 16:14 (response time = 1 hour and 54 minutes). Readings taken around the outside of the well head enclosure were: zero LEL and zero ppm H<sub>2</sub>S. Readings inside the enclosure were: 10% LEL and zero ppm H<sub>2</sub>S. O.V.E. representative stated the problem was a diaphragm had failed in the regulator. Ohio Valley Energy will replace the entire regulator.

**April 7, 2008 @ 13:18 hours.**

Report of a loud noise and strong odor of gas coming from the Town Hall gas well. Ohio Valley Energy was contacted to respond to a large leak at 13:18. At 16:06 another call was made to Ohio Valley Energy to get an updated ETA. At 16:14 Don Epping from O.V.E. called and spoke with Chief Robinson, Mr. Epping was advised that the fire department had shut down the leak due to the large volume of gas escaping. O.V.E. representative arrived on scene at 17:27 (response time = 4 hours and 9 minutes). Readings taken outside the well head enclosure were: 7% LEL and zero ppm H<sub>2</sub>S. The meter was not taken into the enclosure due to safety concerns. O.V.E. representative stated the regulator that was replaced yesterday had failed. O.V.E. will investigate the cause of the failure and re-open the supply line tomorrow. Had members of the fire department not acted quickly to shut down the well head, an evacuation of the area would have been necessary.

**Update** 4-8-2008 Mr. Rick Liddle from Ohio Valley Energy contacted Chief Robinson and advised that the communication problems at O.V.E. that resulted in the delayed response have been corrected.

**April 15, 2008 @ 10:41 hours.**

Report of a loud noise coming from the Gas Well at 7670 Deerfield. Bass energy was contacted to respond at 10:44 and reports a 45 minute ETA. Upon fire department arrival, the release was identified as coming from the safety relief valve on the separator in the tank battery. At 10:55 the Gas Well was shut down at the wellhead by fire department personnel. The release stopped within three (3) minutes of shutting down the gas well. Bass Energy arrived on scene at 11:14 (response time = 30 minutes). Bass Energy stated the release was due to a malfunction of the “motor valve” which allowed high pressure (500 psi) to build up in the separator.

**April 21, 2008@ 08:47 hours.**

Noise and the odor of Natural Gas coming from the tank battery for the Town Hall gas well. Readings taken outside the tank battery enclosure were: zero LEL and zero ppm H<sub>2</sub>S. Upon inspection, found the gas escaping from the drain cup flange. Ohio Valley Energy (O.V.E.) was contacted at 08:58 and arrived on scene at 10:00 (response time = 1 hour and 2 minutes). The repairs will be completed by O.V.E.

**May 12, 2008 @ 20:26 hours.**

Report of “smoke” coming from the gas well at 639 Battles Road. A “pea-sized” hole was found in the regulator body between the well head and the tank battery. The operator (Industry Standard Inc.) had been contacted by the home owner prior to the fire departments arrival. The operator told the homeowner which valve to turn off and before he could be stopped the homeowner ran past the fire department personnel on scene and turned off a “green” valve which supplied the regulator. The leak stopped with only a slight discharge from the hole in the regulator. Multi-Gas detector reading were: zero ppm H<sub>2</sub>s and zero LEL. The operator was contacted by the homeowner sometime prior to 20:39 and arrived on scene at 22:25 (minimum response time = 1 hour and 46 minutes).

**July 29, 2008 @ 16:00 hours.**

Report of a “loud” voice coming from the Gas Well on Carpenter Road. Engine 1411 responded and reports a noise coming from the piping. H<sub>2</sub>S and LEL reading in the area are zero for both. No leaks or odors present. Ohio Valley Energy (gas well operator) contacted and advised of situation. Ohio Valley Energy reports cause to be a spring loaded check valve that was checked yesterday by a worker on site. Per O.V.E. this is a normal condition and their representative heard the noise yesterday. O.V.E. states they do not need to respond.

**August 22, 2008 @ 16:38 hours.**

Report of a “hissing” sound and the odor of natural gas coming from the Town Hall Gas Well. The complaint was called in by a tennis player who left prior to the Fire Departments arrival. Engine 1411 responded and confirmed the hissing sound coming from the well head enclosure. Multi-gas detector readings were: zero LEL and zero ppm of H<sub>2</sub>S outside of the enclosure. Readings inside the enclosure were: 4 to 5 % LEL and zero ppm H<sub>2</sub>S. The gas well operator Ohio Valley Energy (O.V.E.) was contacted by dispatch and requested to respond. While inside the well head enclosure, the hissing sound stopped and the LEL’s dropped to zero. Dispatch was advised by O.V.E. that the well was operating normally.

**September 11, 2008 @ 19:54 hours.**

Report of “smoke” coming from the gas well at 1959 Som Center Rd. Upon arrival, the fire department found an intermittent high pressure leak in the tank battery at the East end of the enclosure. Oil had escaped from the separator tank at the West end of the enclosure and had sprayed over the Southwest corner of the tank battery enclosure. The well operator (PEP) was notified at 20:20 and advised of the situation. Chief Robinson shut the well down at the well head (Demco valve) due to the oil spill. Fire Department Multi-Gas detector readings were taken both outside and inside the tank battery enclosure. Outside readings were: zero LEL, zero ppm H<sub>2</sub>S. Readings inside the enclosure were 8 – 10 % LEL and zero ppm H<sub>2</sub>S near the broken fitting beneath the motor valve. Failure of this fitting allowed over pressurization of the separator tanks which resulted in the safety valve opening to relieve the pressure build-up. PEP on scene at 21:20 (response time = 1 hour).

**September 11, 2008 @ 21:24 hours.**

Odor of Natural Gas reported at the Town Hall Gas Well. The fire department responded and found a slight odor of gas around the well head enclosure. Multi-Gas readings were taken both inside and outside the well head enclosure with no elevated readings of H<sub>2</sub>S or LEL's. The fire department reports this is not an emergency but dispatch will contact the operator (Ohio Valley Energy) and ask them to check the well for normal operation tomorrow.

**October 21, 2008 @ 17:11 hours.**

Mr. Dale Nething of Ohio Valley Energy (OVE) came to the Gates Mills dispatch center and reported that there had been vandalism at the Tank Battery for the Town Hall Gas Well. Chief Robinson was in the dispatch center when Mr. Nething reported the incident and accompanied him to the Tank Battery. The last time the facility was checked was Friday 10-17-2008 and no problems were present. The lock securing the gate was intact and the gate was fully closed when the OVE pumper arrived to check the facility today. A two inch drain plug for the Oil tank had been removed and all the oil and brine water had drained into the containment area. The plug was not found and the threads on the tank were not damaged. The containment area dike controlled the release and no fluids escaped the Tank Battery enclosure. Approximately 400 – 500 gallons of oil had saturated the ground and small pools of oil two to three inches deep were noted. An undetermined smaller amount of brine water also was released from the drain. OVE notified a Gas Well inspector (Tom Hill) from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) of the leak. The Gas Well was shut down by OVE and the contaminated area was covered with absorbent material. Clean-up crews will begin working the site tomorrow 10-22-2008. GMPD will investigate the incident.

**Update: 10-22-2008**

Per the Ohio EPA the ODNR Gas Well Inspector is responsible for overseeing the clean-up operation. ODNR Inspector Norbert Lowder was contacted by Chief Robinson to discuss the site clean-up plan. All contaminated materials removed from the area will be disposed of outside of the Village. All Gas Well operators within the Village of Gates Mills were contacted by Chief Robinson and were asked to check their Gas Well sites. OVE expects to have the site cleaned and operational by 10-24-2008.



**April 2, 2009 @ 18:31 hours.**

Report of the Gas Well at 7559 Brigham Road (Bogomolny/J.R. Smail Inc.) is making “banging” noises. The fire department responded and upon arrival were met by the well owner and his maintenance contractor. Multi-Gas readings were taken by the fire department and no elevated levels of H<sub>2</sub>S or LEL’s were present. The maintenance contractor advised us that the tanks were emptied earlier today. Upon inspection of the steel tanks it was found that both lids were not secured properly resulting in the lids “popping” open and slamming closed when fluids were transferred to the tank. The maintenance contractor will secure the lids and notify the company that removes the brine and oil to do the same.

**November 13, 2009 @ 16:56 hours.**

Report of noise coming from the Gas Well Head at 1470 Chagrin River Rd. (Town Hall). Reading taken with the Fire Department Multi-Gas monitor show no elevated levels of H<sub>2</sub>S or LEL’s were present. Ohio Valley Energy notified that a non-emergency response was needed. OVE representative on-scene at 17:49 and found a problem with the “house line” which he then shut off. Repairs will be completed by Ohio Valley Energy.

**February 8, 2010 @ 08:04 hours.**

Report of the strong odor of Natural Gas in the area of 670 Racebrook Rd. Upon meeting with the homeowner, a slight odor of gas was detected. The Gas Well at 695 Racebrook was checked and found vapor escaping from the Oil Tank vent and cap. Readings taken indicated no elevated levels of H<sub>2</sub>S were present and zero LEL’s. The Operator was contacted and advised of the situation. All units cleared the scene. Follow-up: at 09:30 the operator’s field technician was on scene checking the equipment.

**April 23, 2010 @ 15:25 hours.**

Report of noise coming from the Gas Well located at 530 Battles Road. No report of any odors or smell of natural gas. Upon arrival I was met by employee of the gas well owner who had been working in the area and stated that he had not heard anything unusual today. We checked the tank battery in question and found it to be operating within normal parameters. Reading taken indicated no H<sub>2</sub>S present and zero LEL’s. The noises present were from the flow of gas through the system. No hazards found.

**June 19, 2010 @ 22:24**

At 21:13:53 Mr. Guy Peterson reported that he smelled an odd odor coming from the area of his house. After walking over to the median of Gates Mills Blvd. near the Gas Well, he noticed oil in the creek that runs in that area. He was unable to determine where the oil is coming from.

This information and two bottles of the contaminated water were passed onto the Fire Chief at 22:24. Upon receipt of the information, car 1451 checked the area and noted an odor in the area. The creek was located and there appeared to be some type of contaminate in the water. The odor resembled diesel or home heating fuel. The creek was followed upstream to the point where it goes underground. As a precaution, the three Gas Wells in the closest proximity to the impacted area (G.M.V. Teardrop, Gorman, and Sopko) were checked and no leaks were present.

The investigation continued and the Ohio EPA and Ohio Department of Natural Resources were contacted. At 11:45 on 6-20-2010 the source of the leak was identified by Chief Robinson and a representative of the Gas/Oil industry, as the Gas Well located at 1959 Som Center Road operated by Pursie E. Pipes Company. The valve attached to the Oil tank had separated which allowed 1000 gallons (ODNR estimate) of Crude Oil to escape into the containment dike. Reports indicated that the facility had been checked on June 18, 2010 by a representative of Pursie E. Pipes Company and no leaks were present at that time.

At a point near the Northwest corner of the dike the Oil escaped the containment area and entered a small drainage ditch that runs across the back of the properties along Som Center Road. This drainage ditch then runs between the homes on Gates Mills Blvd. and then goes below ground into the storm sewer. From that point the flow remained underground in the storm sewer a distance of more than one mile until it resurfaces at the Teardrop area.

Engine crew 1-1412: FF S. Brown, FF M. Brown, FF R. Thompson and Cadet A. Thompson placed absorbent booms across the creek at the Teardrop.

At 12:58 Chief Robinson requested a gmail alert be sent to advise the residents on Gates Mills Blvd. East of the situation and to expect workers in their yards.

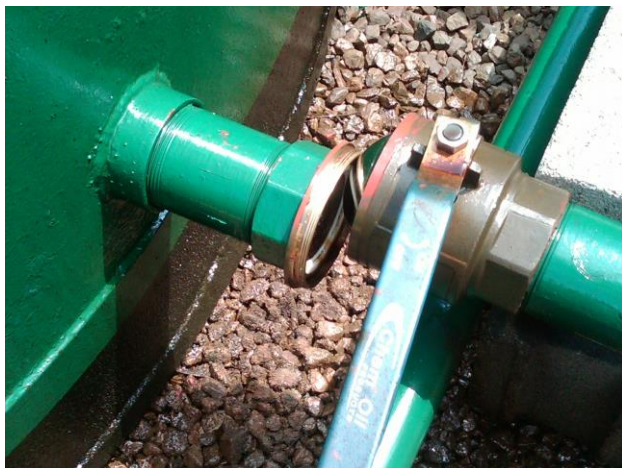
Engine crew 2-1412: Assistant Chief Majeski, FF A. Bercheck, FF M. Feig flushed the drainage ditch nearest the spill with 1000 gallons of water at the request of the Ohio EPA. This was completed in concert with the clean up contractor (Inland Water of Ohio) who had placed absorbent booms in the storm sewers downstream and had vacuum trucks collecting all of the oil and water. The storm sewers along Gates Mills Blvd. were flushed using the same process as above on 6-20-2010 and again on 6-21-2010.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (Inspector Norburt Lowder) will supervise the clean-up of the Tank Battery. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Reginald Brown, Emergency Response Coordinator) will supervise the clean-up of the entire impacted area outside of the Tank Battery.

On 6-20-2010 Reginald Brown, Ohio EPA and Chief Robinson checked the tributaries from the affected area that feed the Chagrin River. No oil or contamination was present beyond the North side of Old Mill Road.

On 6-21-2010 at 16:00 all of the contaminated soil at the Tank Battery location had been removed and replaced with new soil and “blue” clay. This was crucial so that the forecasted rain did not re-contaminate the areas that had been cleaned.

This effort is will continue until the entire area has been returned to its previous condition under the supervision of the Ohio EPA. The absorbent booms and pads will remain in selected locations for approximately one week and will be checked and replaced if needed on a continual basis.



**October 23, 2010 @ 23:58:56**

A Police officer noted that the Town Hall Gas Well Head was making a loud noise and that he smelled the odor of gas in the area. Dispatch notified the fire department at 23:58:56.

Upon arrival at 00:01 hours, Lt. Nemastil advises that gas odors are evident and that the noise had stopped but now has started again. Dispatch was advised to contact Ohio Valley Energy emergency contact person (Anthony Shipley) at 00:06 and have him report to the scene. Chief Robinson arrived on scene at 00:17. Area surrounding the Well Head was checked for H2S and LEL with zero hazards identified. Due to the zero hazard level found, the decision was made to wait for the Gas Well representative to take the action necessary.

At 00:22 (response time = 16 minutes) Mr. Shipley arrived on scene. At 00:24 he shut down the well. The leak appeared to be coming from the regulator/line leading to the Tank Battery. Ohio Valley Energy will make the necessary repairs. All FD units cleared the scene and returned to the station without incident at 00:43.

**November 20, 2010 @ 19:20**

A Police officer reported that the Town Hall Gas Well Head was making a loud noise and that there is a strong odor of gas in the area. Dispatch was notified at 19:20 and notified the Fire Department to respond. Ohio Valley Energy (O.V.E.) was contacted at 19:23 and requested to respond at 19:28. The fire department monitored the area surrounding the Well Head for H2S and LEL with zero hazards found. At 19:39 dispatch was notified by the Fire Department that the noise had stopped and that the gas readings were zero. At 19:42 the Well began to release again and dispatch was notified. H2S and LEL testing continued and at 19:51 dispatch was again advised that there were zero hazards found. Due to the zero hazard level found, the decision was made to wait for the Gas Well representative to arrive and take the action necessary to mitigate the situation. At 20:00 the representative of O.V.E. arrived on scene (response time = 32 minutes). The O.V.E. representative shut down the well at 20:06 with some assistance from the Fire Department. Chief Robinson will contact O.V.E. to determine if the cause of this release is the same as the incident at this location on October 23, 2010.

**June 7, 2011 @ 00:25:47**

The Fire Department responded E-1411 and E-1412 to 535 Riverview Road for the report of the strong odor of natural gas in the area. Upon arrival, the area was monitored. The well company representative had been requested by dispatch. Bass Energy advised of FD findings that no increased hazard levels were found outside the enclosure at 00:53. All units on stand-by awaiting the Well Company representative. The Bass Energy representative arrived on scene at 0131. The Well Company representative inspected the tanks, equipment, and readings and reported all within normal operating limits.

**June 25, 2011 @ 10:56:00**

Report of the odor of Natural Gas coming from the Gas Well Tank Battery on Deerfield Road. E-1411, C-1472, and Chief Robinson responded in C-1451. Upon arrival the odor of gas was present in the area. Fire department Multi-gas meter readings were taken around the Tank Battery enclosure and within the enclosure. No elevated readings were noted outside the enclosure and a maximum reading of 7 L.E.L. was found in close proximity to the control/meter cabinet. The Gas Well operator (Bass Energy) was contacted by dispatch and their representative arrived on scene at 12:26. The Gas Well was determined to be operating within normal parameters. The cool ambient temperatures possibly held the vented gas at or near ground level.

**April 6, 2015 @ 15:33**

Report of the odor of Natural Gas coming from the Town Hall gas wellhead. A Service Department employee (John Pata) was fertilizing the area surrounding the wellhead and noticed an odor of Natural Gas and reported it to his supervisor (Trevor Murfello). Assistant Service Director Murfello contacted Chief Robinson in his office to advise him of a possible leak. Chief Robinson and Firefighter Pata checked the area with the FD Multi-Gas detector and noticed an odor outside of the Wellhead enclosure. Readings outside of the enclosure remained at zero percent Lower Explosive Limit (LEL) for Methane.

Ohio Valley Energy (OVE) was contacted at 15:39 and advised of the findings. At 15:46 Mr. Don Nething (OVE) contacted Chief Robinson by cell phone. He stated that a "Pumper" (Service Tech) had been dispatched. Chief Robinson advised Mr. Nething that there is no urgent hazard outside of the enclosure which is secured. Photos taken at the scene, all FD personnel returned to quarters without further incident.

**Update:** Per OVE the escaping gas is now permitted through an ODNR rule change last year. Mr. Nething has agreed to work with Chief Robinson to attempt to reduce the odors.

After the gas well fire at Gilmour academy in 1984 we had zero incidents at gas wells for twenty-two (22) years. Since the enactment of House Bill #278 in 2004 we have responded to thirty four (34) incidents.

In 2006 we responded to three (3) incidents.

In 2007 we responded to seven (7) incidents.

In 2008 we responded to fourteen (14) incidents.

In 2009 we responded to two (2) incidents.

In 2010 we responded to five (5) incidents.

In 2011 we responded to two (2) incidents.

In 2012 zero incidents.

In 2013 zero incidents.

In 2014 zero incidents

As of April 2015 we responded to one (1) incident.



# Gates Mills Fire Department

P. Thomas Robinson, Chief    Office: 440-423-4405    Fax: 440-423-2001

This is a disturbing trend and as such should be addressed as a priority of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Mineral Resources. The Village of Gates Mills and the Gates Mills Fire Department will continue to advocate changes to current Gas/Oil Well regulations and make recommendations to improve public safety and the protection of the environment.

As the fire department responds to Gas Well Incidents, this list will be updated as well as the recommendations that follow. This updated information will be provided to representatives of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Mineral Resources, the Mayor of the Village of Gates Mills, the state Fire Marshal, and the Village of Gates Mills Safety Committee with the expectation that together we will improve both public safety and protect the environment.

P. Thomas Robinson, Fire Chief

May 5, 2015



# Gates Mills Fire Department

P. Thomas Robinson, Chief    Office: 440-423-4405    Fax: 440-423-2001

## **Recommendations:**

1. That the Chief of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Mineral Resources develop and implement an annual inspection program of all wells in the state.
2. All inspections are conducted by inspectors from the Division of Mineral Resources.
3. Institute a quality control program to insure that inspections are completed as required.
4. Require Gas and/or Oil Well operators to provide personnel on the scene of an emergency within 30 minutes of notification.
5. Require Gas and/or Oil Well operators to provide any and all information including investigations to determine the cause of incidents/emergencies to the local fire department.
6. That the Chief of the Division of Mineral Resources grant the "right of entry" to gas and/or oil wells as an Authorized Representative of the division to the local fire department for the purpose of preparing Incident Action Plans and formulating emergency operating procedures.
7. Install a "hold-open" latch on the gates of the Well Head and Tank Battery enclosures.
8. Increase the current minimum distance of one hundred and fifty (150) feet between a structure and the tank battery/well head to three hundred and thirty (330) feet.
9. Require remote shut-off equipment on all urban area Gas/Oil wells.



10. Require atmospheric monitoring of all urban area wells for the possible release of hazardous gases. The monitoring equipment shall alert the local fire department.
11. Update the “web” based Gas/Oil Well data base for first responders. This data base only shows three (3) Gas Wells in Gates Mills. Over fifty (50) wells are located in Gates Mills.
12. Use the current Ohio Fire Incident Report System (OFIRS) to collect information on Fire Department responses to incidents at gas wells. Use #982 under “Specific Property Use” for all incidents at gas wells. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources could use #982 to collect these reports from every Fire Department in Ohio. (I completed this on May 1, 2008 with assistance from Ms. Cindi Pitzer from the State Fire Marshal’s office). *UPDATE: On August 19, 2008 the state Fire Marshal sent a letter to all fire departments in Ohio advising them to use code #982 for all gas/oil well incidents.*
13. Require well operators to notify fire departments of any changes to their emergency contact numbers.
14. Create an education program to inform the public about the “normal” sounds and odors that are present around the well head and tank battery.