

NEWS RELEASE

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Unit Chief
John Owens



February 26, 2026

GAS LINE INCIDENT PROMPTS EVACUATIONS IN AVILA BEACH

Avila Beach, CA — CAL FIRE San Luis Obispo Unit (SLU) responded to a gas line incident at approximately 10:15 a.m. at 2101 Canvasback Place in Avila Beach after a trenching operation struck a large-diameter natural gas line, resulting in an active leak within a residential neighborhood.

Upon arrival, crews confirmed a significant gas release and immediately established a safety perimeter. Out of an abundance of caution, approximately 100 residents were evacuated, and an additional 200 residents were directed to shelter in place while utility crews worked to isolate and secure the damaged line. Evacuations included the Bay Estates area.

San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office and Port San Luis Harbor Authority assisted with evacuations and traffic control to ensure public safety during the incident.

The gas utility company responded promptly and successfully mitigated the leak at approximately 12:00 p.m. Once the area was deemed safe, evacuation and shelter-in-place orders were lifted.

“This incident highlights the importance of coordinated, multi-agency response and the cooperation of our community,” said a CAL FIRE SLU spokesperson. “We appreciate residents for following safety directions and our partner agencies for their swift assistance.”

No injuries were reported.

For additional information, please contact:

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