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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JOINT INFORMATION RELEASE: Grays Harbor County Emergency Management, City of Hoquiam Fire Department, City of Hoquiam Police Department

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Two city blocks in Hoquiam Evacuated

HOQUIAM – An uncontrolled natural gas release at the intersection of Bay Ave and Ontario Street in Hoquiam resulted in evacuations for the 2500 and 2600 blocks of Bay Ave and Pacific Ave in Hoquiam around 3 PM today.

The leak was reported at approximately 2:15 PM as a smell of gas coming from a building. Upon arrival of Law and Fire, an uncontrolled natural gas release was discovered in a 2-inch Cascade Natural Gas service line. Cascade Natural Gas responded to the scene and evaluated the situation.

As a precaution, evacuation orders were issued by the City of Hoquiam Police Department for the two blocks anticipated to be affected by the release. Traffic was restricted from 22nd Ave to Myrtle Street on Bay Ave, Pacific Ave, and Aberdeen Ave. Grays Harbor YMCA offered their facility as a sheltering location for people displaced by the evacuation orders. Evacuations were made by door-to-door notification of on scene Law and Fire personnel as well as Grays Harbor County Emergency Alerts. Coordination took place with the Hoquiam School District for bus routes within the evacuated area.

The National Weather Service – Seattle was able to provide in-time Plume Modeling for responders on scene to evaluate the need for further evacuation orders based on current and projected weather patterns.

No other areas were evacuated as a result of the release. The cause of the release is under investigation.

At 4:45 PM, the release was contained by Cascade Natural Gas and evacuation orders were lifted for the area.

The Grays Harbor County Emergency Operations Center was activated to support the incident. The Washington State Patrol, Hoquiam Police Department, Hoquiam Fire Department, and Cascade Natural Gas responded to the incident.

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