



# MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **MEMA responds to gas leak in Covington County, 25 families evacuated**

**PEARL** – According to local officials, 25 families within a one mile radius of a natural gas pipeline leak in Covington County have been evacuated as a safety precaution. The site is located just off Mississippi Highway 590 near Seminary.

Officials with the Williams Gas Pipeline company said a drop in pressure at the cavern was found around 8 p.m. Monday and emergency officials were notified.

No injuries have been reported. It is not known when residents will be able to return to their homes. Six roads leading up to the location of the facility have been closed.

A controlled venting of natural gas into the atmosphere to further relieve pressure within the storage cavern is currently underway. According to officials, the process is loud, but safe.

Responding agencies include Covington County Emergency Management Agency, Covington County Sheriff's Department, MEMA, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Mississippi Department of Health, Jones County Emergency Management Agency, Jones County Sheriff's Department, Seminary Volunteer Fire Department, the National Weather Service, American Red Cross and Williams Pipeline.

More updates will be provided as they become available.

Media with questions can contact MEMA External Affairs at 866-920-MEMA (6362).

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