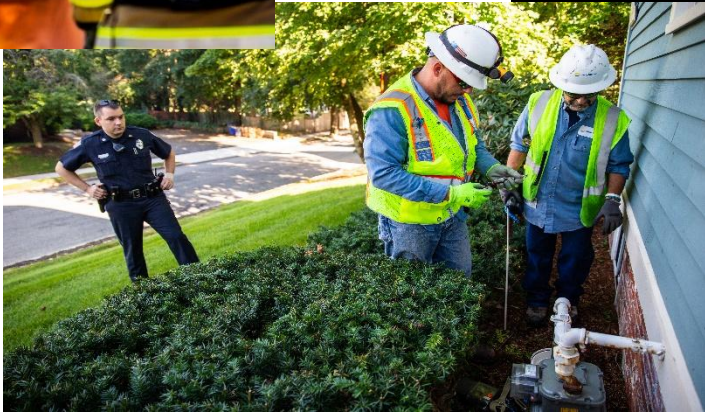


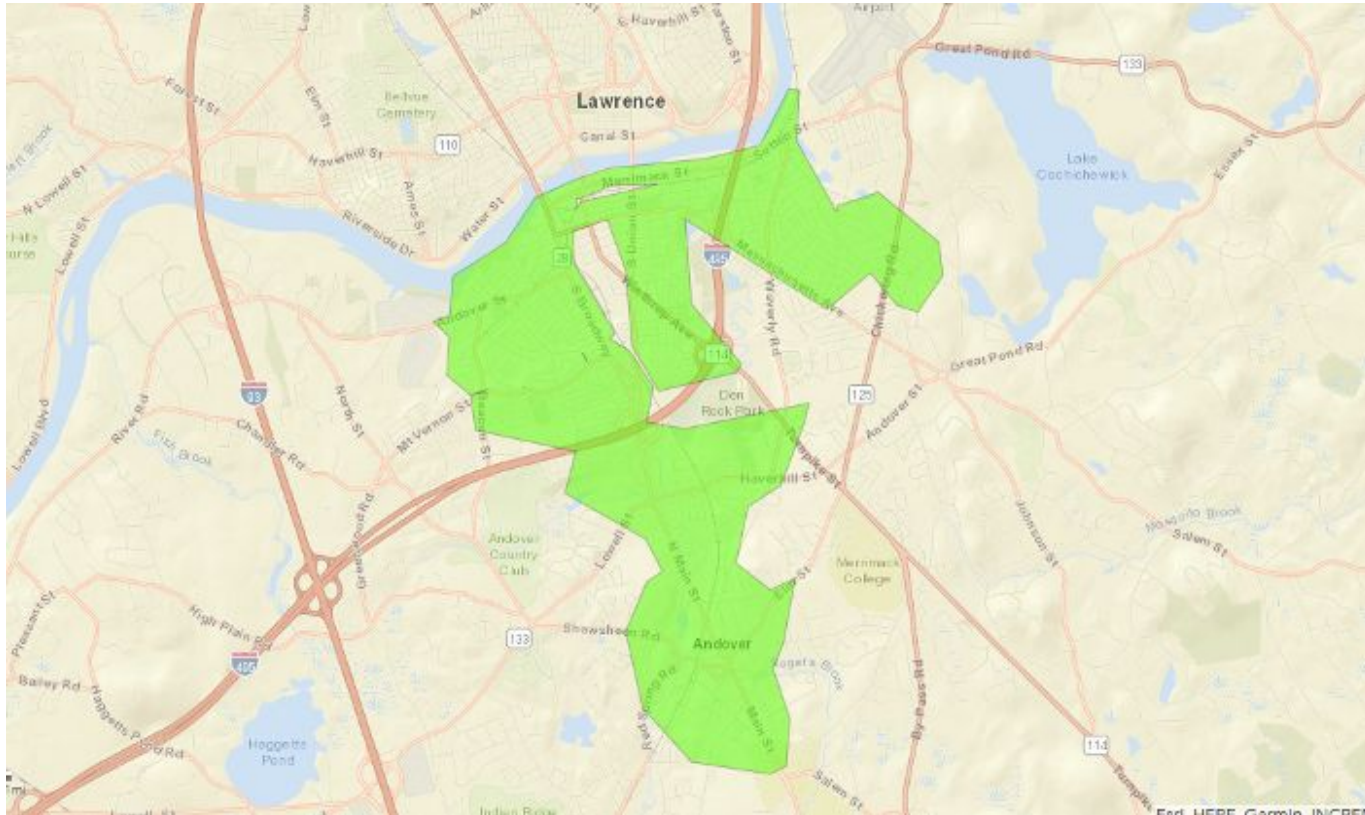
PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO THE MERRIMACK VALLEY GAS EVENT



SEPTEMBER 13, 2018



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



SEPTEMBER 13, 2018



Over-pressurization of a gas line being repaired

3 Communities:

City of Lawrence
Town of Andover
Town of North Andover



Impacts:

Restaurants
Housing
Communication
Sheltering and Volunteers





Public Health
Prevent.Promote.Protect.

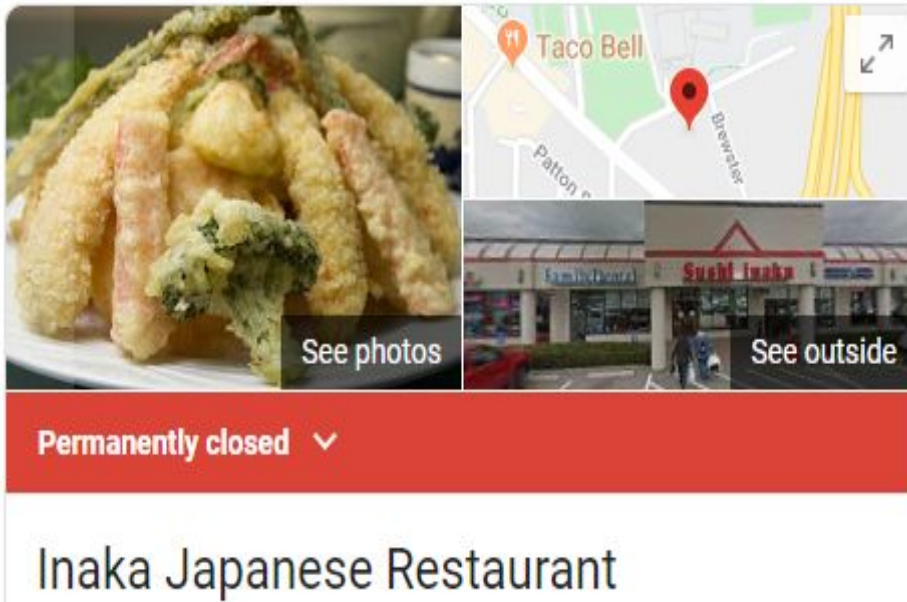
FOOD SERVICE IMPACTS

- Approx 700 Food Service Establishments in the three communities.
- Approx 250 Food Establishments were impacted by the event in the three communities.
- Bueno Malo in Andover closed for 7 weeks just a year after opening.
- Carleen's Diner in Lawrence closed for 16 weeks after the gas explosions.
- [Merrimack Valley Business Owners Recovering One Year After Gas Explosions \(youtube.com\)](#)

FOOD SERVICE IMPACTS



Public Health
Prevent.Promote.Protect.



Elizabeth Bautista (right) and her business partner, Deya Garcia, shown in October in their closed shop Delish Bakery and Cafe in Lawrence. SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF/FILE



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

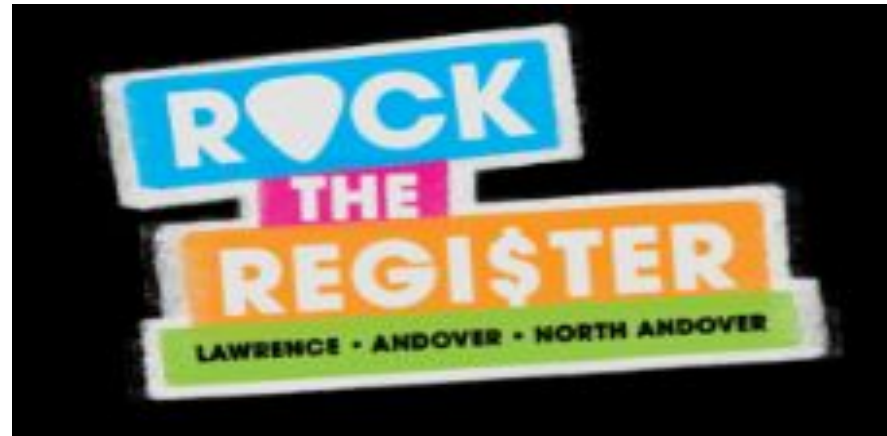
DAMAGES

- Reports show over \$1 Million lost in food spoilage and damage to equipment.
- Columbia Gas settles on road repairs - Reaches \$80M settlement with three communities
- Columbia Gas settled a class action lawsuit for \$143 million after the Merrimack Valley gas explosions
- <https://www.wcvb.com/article/columbia-gas-to-pay-dollar143m-to-residents-businesses-harmed-by-gas-explosions/28536851>

TEMPORARY SOLUTION

Newly-Launched campaign “Rock the Register” which aims to reinvigorate local businesses in the Merrimack Valley by utilizing special shopping promotions as an way to spread the message to shop locally.

[Rock the Register launched to help Merrimack Valley businesses \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)





Public Health
Prevent.Promote.Protect.

RE-OPENING

- Establishments tried to retrofit to propane/electric.
- Collaborated with Fire Prevention, Plumbing Inspectors, Electrical Inspectors, Building Inspectors
- Assessment of the current built environment
- All 3 communities were eager to have food establishments re-open safely.

PARTNERSHIPS

- Other city and town inspectors supported us.
- Neighboring Health Directors
- Harvard University Office of Environmental Health Safety
- Mojin Solutions



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Recovery Following a Power Outage

Check the following:

_____ A food establishment that was ordered or otherwise required to cease operations **may not re-open until authorization has been granted by the City or Town.**

_____ **TCS Foods** above 41°F are to be discarded.

_____ **Refrigerated Non-TCS Food**

_____ **Frozen food**



Public Health
Prevent.Promote.Protect.

Recovery Following a Power Outage

Check each of the following:

- _____ Electricity, potable water, and/or gas services have been fully restored.
- _____ Verify that all circuit breakers have been properly re-set as needed.
- _____ Assure that all equipment and facilities are operating properly
- _____ Food contact surfaces, utensils and equipment may need to be cleaned and sanitized before use. Remember to check such things as ice machines where water from melted ice may have accumulated.
- _____ Disposal of Food

Date: _____

Name Of Establishment: _____

Owner/Manager: _____

Establishment Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Public Health
Prevent.Promote.Protect.

Inventory List

[illegible]

HOUSING IMPACTS



Public Health
Prevent.Promote.Protect.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo Casey McGee places a trash barrel outside a trailer as workers get them ready for families on the South Common in Lawrence. The trailers are being prepared for residents who are still without gas heat as a result of the Merrimack Valley gas disaster.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo Casey McGee places a trash barrel outside a trailer as workers get them ready for families on the South Common in Lawrence. The trailers are being prepared for residents who are still without gas heat as a result of the Merrimack Valley gas disaster.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Communications

- Tried to be consistent across communities for public/business info
- OPEM called evening of the event & regularly
- Challenge – Region 3 had no Fiscal Agent
 - HMCC staff not initially available
 - Decision was made to use HMCC for Site Rep sharing & assistance request
 - HMCC requested Site Rep each morning.
- Local Health conducted outreach to LTC
- Hospital Communications occurred through HMCC

■ Specific MDPH Asks:

- Food Safety Info in multiple languages
- Legionnaires' Disease & stagnant water heaters
- Temporary Housing / Trailer Concerns
- Assistance for Housing Inspections
- Behavioral Health Specialists
- Lesson – Call program office directly for advice/public info. – Policy issues (state inspector dispatch) go through HMCC

SHELTERING & VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT



Shelters

- Registration
- Medical screening, monitoring and triage
- Medical care of shelter residents, transition to hospital
- General care and Behavioral Health of shelter residents

Resource Recovery Centers

- Registration
- Calming frustrated residents

Claims Centers

- Behavioral Health
- Administrative support

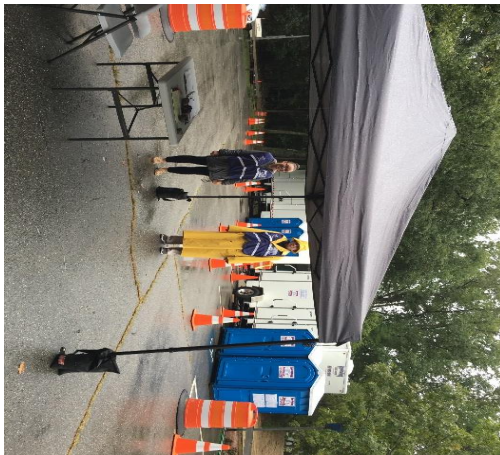


SHELTERING & VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT



Shower Facility Staff

Food and other Donation Distribution



SHELTERING & VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT



Statistics

Shifts Covered Across 3 Communities:

- 49** at Emergency Shelters
- 46** at Resource Recovery Centers
- 14** for Behavioral Health – Numerous Sites
- 38** for Shower facilities
- 6** for Food distribution sites
- Donation management

Over the deployment, **356** volunteers were
on standby

