# Evacuation near well site is precaution

Monday, April 19, 2010
About 25 homes in south Caddo Parish were evacuated as a precaution this morning after gas vapors were detected at a well site.

Vapors were first detected at the drilling rig near the 11,000 block of Norris Ferry Road around 8 p.m. last night. The situation stabilized, but vapors reappeared around 4 a.m. today.

About an hour later, officials activated the First Call Alert system to warn affected residents of a precautionary evacuation. About 40 calls were made. Caddo deputies then began a door-to-door canvas of the area to make sure all residents had received the word.

Initially, only a few residents within a 100-yard radius of the well were evacuated, but that area was expanded to include residents south of the well whose entrance/exit to their neighborhood was being closed.

Roads currently closed include Cypress Garden, Willow Ridge, Debroeck, and Norris Ferry south of Southern Trace.

Caddo Sheriff's Haz Mat, Louisiana State Police Haz Mat, and DEQ remain on the scene. Officials are currently testing water and air quality to determine whether residents will be allowed back into their neighborhoods.

The well is owned by Exco Operating Company in Grand Cane.