

ATTACHMENT 1

Leak prompts SM gas shutoff

Hundreds at Views mobile home park have gone full week without ovens, hot water

By [David Garrick \(/staff/david-garrick/\)](#) 6:42 p.m. Sept. 18, 2013

SAN MARCOS — Hundreds of residents in a San Marcos mobile home park have been without gas for more than a week, leaving them without warm showers, oven-cooked meals and clean laundry.

Crews have been working for days to fix the problem — leaks in the park's underground pipes — and are hopeful that service could be restored Thursday to at least part of the 192-slot San Marcos View Estates, the homeowners association said Wednesday evening.

There's no estimate on when the rest of the homes will have gas.

Some residents said they've become increasingly skeptical after several previous promises of restored service have been broken.

"I've heard 'two more days' a whole bunch of times since they shut the gas off Sept. 11," said resident Sarah Rosenfield. "I have no hot water, no oven and no stove. I've been eating microwave food for a week."

The problem began Sept. 9 when a large gas leak was discovered in the park, located on Rancho Santa Fe Road just south of state Route 78, the homeowners association said in a statement released Wednesday to U-T San Diego.

The park's manager, Rochelle White, declined to answer additional questions Wednesday evening.

The gas was turned off Sept. 11 to repair the leak, but San Diego Gas & Electric has refused to restore service because of additional leaks and safety concerns, the statement said.

The association blames the problem on the park's aging infrastructure and the relatively low incomes of its residents, who jointly bought the park from the city in 1994.

An SDG&E spokeswoman said Wednesday that officials from the utility have been at the park working with the homeowners association and its contractor on the leak problems.

The spokeswoman, Amber Albrecht, confirmed that the utility has blocked restoration of service based on safety concerns. But she declined to provide more details. She said the city would also have to sign off on any restoration of service.

City officials said they won't play a role in solving the problems because the park is owned by the residents, not the city.

"We don't have involvement with their utility issues," city spokeswoman Jenny Windle said Wednesday.

Resident Bryan Neves, who has lived in the park nearly 30 years, said he and his neighbors are frustrated and edgy.

"I can't do laundry and I'm sick of eating TV dinners," he said. "Everybody is freaking out."

Neves said many residents are worried they'll be asked for money they don't have to cover the repairs.

Rosenfield said she's been told by homeowners association officials that the repairs might cost as much as \$1 million. She also said she's worried the park might get condemned if the leaks can't be found and repaired.

Rosenfield said association officials told her many of the gas lines were laid out incorrectly and that maintenance problems have been ignored over the years.

She said the park is home to many elderly residents, who can't easily travel to restaurants and laundromats.

She said there are also many families with young children, who can't afford to eat out or go to a hotel for a few days.

In its written statement, the homeowners group said aging infrastructure is a problem facing many mobile home communities.

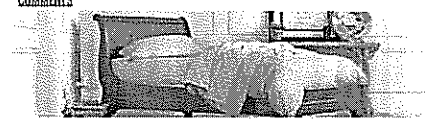
"It is nearly impossible for manufactured housing communities, with many residents on fixed incomes, to afford the millions of dollars to replace their gas systems," the statement says.

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Gas back in part of SM mobile home park

But majority of park still lacks service while testing continues

By David Garrick (/staff/david-garrick/) 5:50 P.M. SEPT. 19, 2013 [PRINT](#)

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SAN MARCOS — Gas was restored Thursday afternoon to about one-third of the 192 homes in a San Marcos mobile home park where residents have had their service shut off for more than a week.

There's still no estimate on when the rest of the community might come back on line, said Rochelle White, manager at the San Marcos View Estates on Rancho Santa Fe Road, south of state Route 78. The gas was shut off on Sept. 11 after leaks were discovered in underground pipes that serve the community.

White said "pressure testing" to determine the location of the leaks would continue in coming days. Crews have been working on repairs since the outage began.

In the meantime, residents of the park have been unable to take warm showers, wash and dry their laundry, or cook meals in their homes.

Showers have been available at the park's clubhouse, which is solar powered. White said those hours have been extended and the park's homeowners association is loaning residents electric burners to use for cooking.

The association held a meeting Thursday night to update homeowners on the work.

Resident Sarah Rosenfield said she was pleased to have her gas back, but she feared problems would resurface. "It's terrific to see progress is being made, but it's not over because we have a \$1 million infrastructure problem," she said. "It's going to be a chronic problem."

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Park officials have blamed the problem on the community's aging infrastructure and the relatively low incomes of its residents, who jointly bought the park from the city in 1994.

White said service had been restored to the part of the park with the newest pipes, leaving the older areas without service. She said a contractor hired by the park has conducted the pressure testing, while officials from San Diego Gas & Electric have been on site to detect any gas leaks.

The problem began Sept. 9 when a large gas leak was discovered in the park. The gas was turned off Sept. 11 to repair the leak, but SDG&E refused to restore service because of additional leaks and safety concerns.

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Gas leak repaired at San Jose mobile home park

By Dan Nakaso

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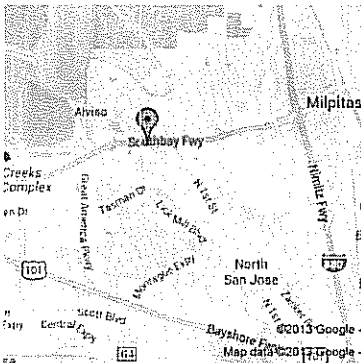
POSTED: 09/27/2013 07:32:30 AM PDT

SAN JOSE – Residents of a north San Jose mobile home park who had no gas service for nine days will have full service restored after crews discovered and repaired several leaks Thursday evening.

The leaks were first reported Sept. 18, leaving dozens of residents unable to take hot showers, cook meals or dry clothes.

Before the leaks were discovered late Thursday by Pacific Gas & Electric, resident Michael Pryce said, "We can't shower. We have to heat up water in the microwave and take a spit bath in the sink. My wife isn't happy to say the least. She can't go into her office looking like a hug."

Pryce lives at the 168-space Oak Crest Estates on North First Street that Pryce estimates is home to 350



View **Oak Crest Estates** (<https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msa=0&msid=206809070856216568600.0004e7518ba89e9176954&hl=en&ie=UTF8&t=m&ll=37.40971,-121.94959&spn=0.081812,0.102654&7=12&source=embed>) in a larger map

people.

The California Public Utilities Commission said it's unusual for any community to be without natural gas service for more than a week and is investigating a complaint from Oak Crest Estates' management against PG&E.

PG&E found four small leaks and a larger one Thursday, and the leaks were then repaired.

The company that manages the complex, Irvine-based Investment Property Group, had earlier hired Jarso Gas Utility Contractors to find and repair the leaks emanating somewhere from its system of more than two miles of gas pipes, which are buried six feet underground.

Contact Dan Nakaso at 408-271-3648. Follow him at [Twitter.com/dannakaso](https://twitter.com/dannakaso) (<http://Twitter.com/dannakaso>).

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