

September 8, 2017

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PRESS RELEASE

Hazardous Material Incident at Stafford Water Treatment Plant

On Friday afternoon, September 8, 2017, North Marin Water District (NMWD) experienced a minor chlorine gas leak at the District's Stafford Water Treatment Plant in West Novato. The plant's on-site staff initiated immediate action to contain the leak, and contacted the Marin County Fire Department and Novato Fire Protection District per NMWD's emergency operations protocol. NMWD staff stopped the leak shortly after it occurred. Emergency responders evaluated the scene and determined that there was no risk to public safety because the leak had been contained.

NMWD staff estimate that less than one pound of chlorine leaked during the incident. The source of the leak was an apparently faulty gasket seal on a gas storage cylinder. The gas cylinder is located in a sealed room equipped with an automatic chlorine gas neutralization system to prevent the release of hazardous gas. Access to the Indian Valley Golf Course was restricted from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The District applauds its staff and the local emergency responders for their quick and expert actions in resolving this incident.