

Family safe after natural gas explosion



Photo by Jen Reeder

A sign reading "Do Not Enter - By Order of the Fire Marshal" will be on the front door of a Frederick home for another week or two following a natural gas explosion the morning of Oct. 19.

By Jen Reeder
jenr@carbonvalleyherald.com

FREDERICK – On Monday, Oct. 20, a sign on the front door at the house at 217 Oak St. read "Do Not Enter – By Order of the Fire Marshal."

The reason for the sign was a natural gas explosion that happened around 9 a.m. the morning before, when 88-year-old grandparents were cooking breakfast for their 39-year-old grandson.

"We got a 911 call from the grandson about an explosion and his grandmother and grandfather being hurt," said Dave Puccetti, fire marshal for the Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District.

The call was logged at 9:04 a.m., and first responders arrived at the scene at 9:05 a.m. because the home is only two blocks from the station, Puccetti said.

The family members were not burned, though the force of the blast knocked the woman down and she sustained minor injuries. The three were evaluated and taken to Exempla Good Samaritan Medical Center in Lafayette as a

precaution. They were released later that day.

Puccetti said it will most likely be a week or two before the family can re-enter their home. They will stay with other family members in the area until that time, he said.

Puccetti said the source of the explosion was "accidental in nature."

"It was caused by a natural gas leak," Puccetti said. "The line that comes in was just old and deteriorated."

Norm Long, business relations representative for Source Gas, said the source of the leak is underneath the house, presumably in a crawl space, so officials for Source Gas had not been able to access it for safety reasons as of Monday afternoon.

He urged the public to take precautions to prevent similar situations.

"As a reminder, if people smell natural gas, please call our service center 24 hours a day at 1-800-563-0012," Long said.

The family has requested that their names be withheld from media stories.