

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Diana L. Klink

Office: 757.514.4104

Mobile: 757.359.1845

OAK RIDGE SHOPPING CENTER CLOSED FOLLOWING EARLY MORNING INCIDENT

SUFFOLK, Virginia (February 18, 2021) Suffolk Fire & Rescue units currently remain on scene after a vehicle struck a gas meter base behind a business at the Oak Ridge Shopping Center, which many refer to as the Food Lion Shopping Center, in the 1500 block of Holland Road earlier this morning, Thursday, February 18, 2021.

Emergency Communications was first contacted and Suffolk Police units initially responded to an alarm call at the Tobacco & Vape shop located in an end unit at the shopping center at 1:18 a.m. and found that a vehicle had struck the rear of the building, with the impact activating the alarm. The vehicle had fled the scene. Suffolk Fire & Rescue units were dispatched due to the heavy odor of gas in the area and arrived at 1:23 a.m.

Battalion Chief Demetri Wilson advised that upon preliminary investigation it was determined that the vehicle struck the gas meter base, and crews from Virginia Natural Gas responded in order to secure and make extensive repairs that were required. Dominion Power crews also responded, as power had to be completely shut down from the pole to the multiple businesses in the shopping center due to the amount of natural gas in the area. Store managers were contacted to advise of the incident and the necessity to secure power.

All of the businesses in the shopping center will need to be ventilated before power can be restored later this morning. The incident remains under investigation.

Responding units include Battalion 1; Engines 1, 2, and 4; Ladder 3; Medic 1, Rescue 1, EMS-1, and Safety 1.

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