

National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials

Washington, DC 20594



November 18, 2024

Investigator-in-Charge's Accident Summary

NTSB Accident#: PLD24FR003

Atmos Energy Corporation Natural Gas-Fueled Home Explosions and Fires
January 24, 2024, and January 27, 2024, Jackson, Mississippi

On January 24, 2024, about 8:14 a.m., a home explosion and fire occurred at 185 Bristol Blvd. (Location 1) in Jackson, Mississippi, resulting in one fatality and one injury. Three days later, on January 27, 2024, about 4:34 a.m., a second explosion occurred at 1146 Shalimar Drive (Location 2) about 0.7 miles southeast of the first explosion, and fire spread to a neighboring home. (See Figure 1) No fatalities or injuries were reported in relation to the explosion at Location 2. All three homes were destroyed. Light to heavy rain was observed prior to the accidents at both locations.

Natural gas service to the affected homes was provided by Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos). Atmos' natural gas distribution system near Locations 1 and 2 was constructed of 2-inch coated steel main and installed in the 1960s and early 1970s. Before these explosions, Atmos identified and classified leaks on their distribution system near Locations 1 and 2. The leak nearest to Location 1 was discovered on November 17, 2023, and classified as a grade-2 leak, meaning that it was nonhazardous but would require repair in the future. The leak nearest to Location 2 was discovered on December 1, 2023, and was classified as a grade-3 (nonhazardous) leak. Neither leak was repaired before the explosions.

After the accidents, subsurface gas was detected, and leaks were found on service lines near both locations. At Location 1, a leak was found on the mechanical joint connecting a gas service line to a Dresser Style 90 coupling. At Location 2, a leak was found on the mechanical joint connecting a gas service line to a Dresser Style 90 fitting. Both the coupling and fitting were installed at least 50 years prior to the accident.



Figure 1. Map and photographs of explosion locations (Courtesy of Google Earth, the Mississippi Public Service Commission [Location 1 inset], and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration [Location 2 inset].)