Press Release
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PRESS RELEASE

Gulf Breeze, Fla. (Nov. 1, 2021) – The City of Gulf Breeze today submitted its report to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) regarding an accidental cross-connection that was discovered and repaired on October 18 between a newly constructed home's sewer line and a Midway Water System water main.

Gulf Breeze concluded that the primary responsibility for the incident was a private building contractor, Brown Construction, proceeding to make the connection from a home's sewer line before the City of Gulf Breeze could mark the location of the utility's sewer line. The contractor did not first identify the waterline and no other utilities were marked. Although Midway reported to the Sunshine 811 system that its lines were marked as of March 29, the contractor asserts that there were no blue Midway marks. Additionally, the contractor proceeded on the morning of April 1 to excavate and make the connection after first contacting Gulf Breeze that same morning. Locators arrived on site only to be intercepted by Brown's supervisor who told them that the excavation and connection had already occurred and they were no longer needed.

As a result of these findings, Gulf Breeze has ordered an end to the practice of allowing contractors to tap into its existing water and sewer mains and is now requiring that only authorized Gulf Breeze Regional Water System employees make those connections.

The City has assisted with sampling at the approximately 400 potentially impacted properties. All samples have come back negative for E. coli bacteria associated with wastewater.

The City says it will continue to work closely with FDEP and the Florida Department of Health and to seek additional steps it can take to help prevent future incidents.

The City's After-Action Report is available at this link: Gulf Breeze After-Action Report

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