



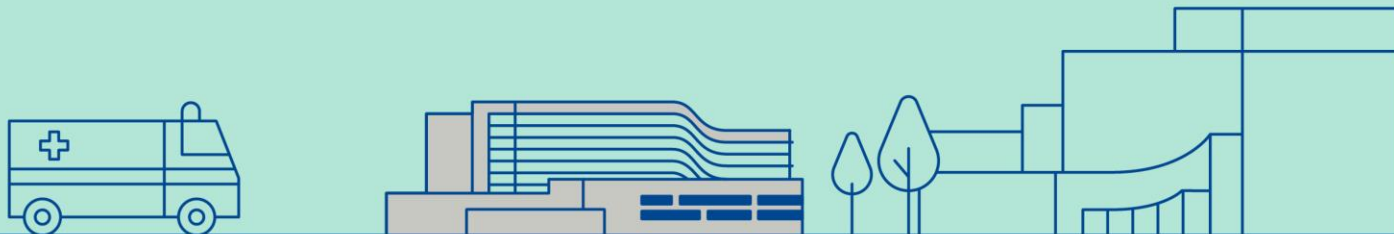
# **Vassar Brothers Medical Center Gas Leak Response**

**Joe Stevens & Lisa Corcoran**

January 23, 2020

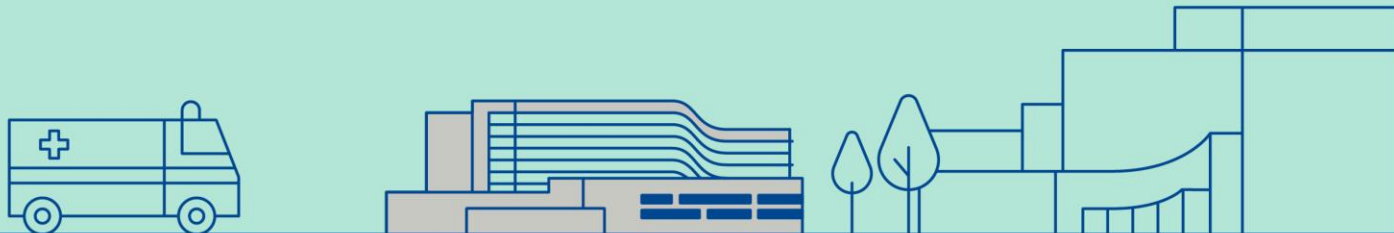
# New Construction

- **Vassar is currently undergoing the construction of a new 752,000 square-foot eight-story patient pavilion.**
- **On November 20<sup>th</sup>, during construction near our four-story medical office building, workers mistakenly drilled into a natural gas line.**



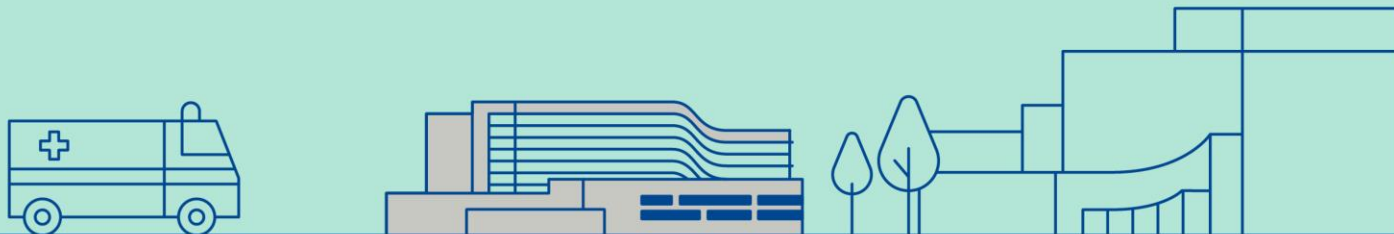
# Medical Office Building

- **The medical office building (across the street from the hospital) houses an ambulatory surgery center, an endoscopy center, 12 medical offices, a staff training center, and several staff offices.**
- **Several procedures were being performed in the ambulatory surgery center and two procedures had just been completed in the endoscopy center.**



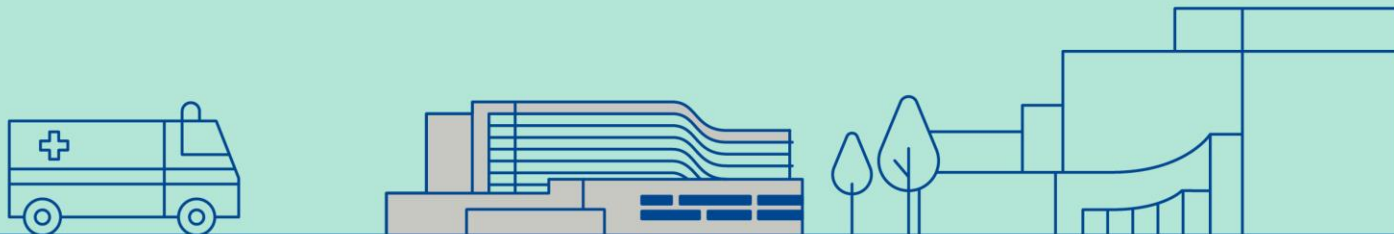
# Medical Office Building

- **A staff member inside the building on the first floor noticed the smell of gas in the building and pulled the fire alarm.**
- **Staff outside the building noticed the smell of gas and notified the Facilities Operations Department.**
- **The City of Poughkeepsie Fire Department immediately responded to the fire alarm activation.**



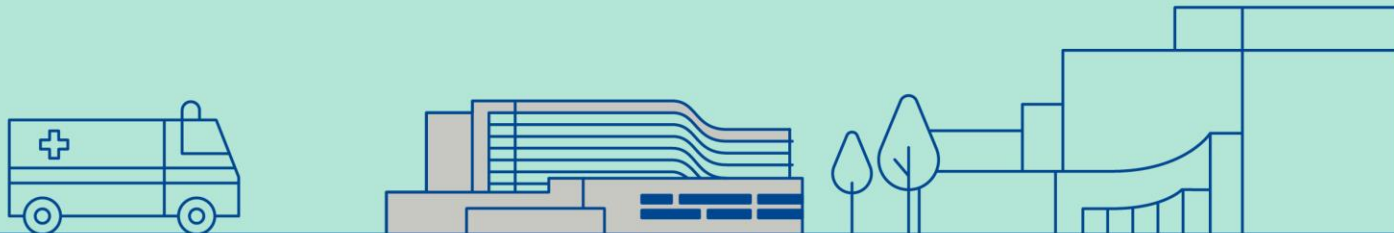
# Medical Office Building

- **The fire department entered the building and noted that the smell of gas was prominent within the building and ordered an immediate evacuation.**
- **Central Hudson, the regional utility company, also responded once notified by the Facilities Operations Department.**



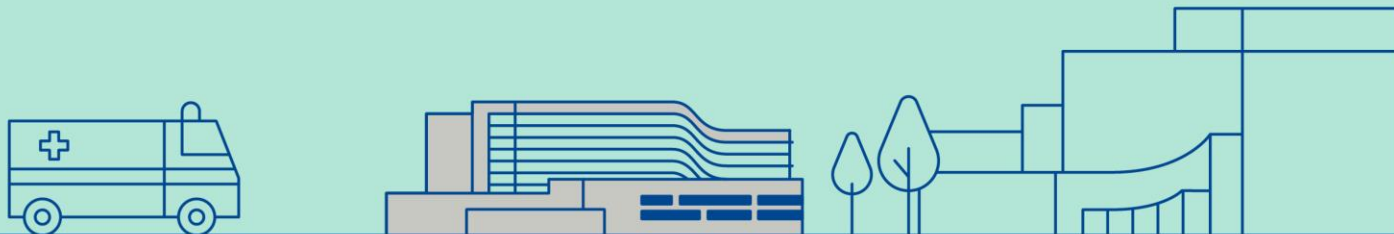
# Emergency Notifications

- **Lisa Corcoran, the hospital's emergency manager, was at the IAEM conference in Savannah.**
- **Joe Stevens, Northern Dutchess Hospital's emergency manager, was called to the hospital to assist in the response.**
- **Joe alerted everyone of the incident via the emergency alert notification system.**



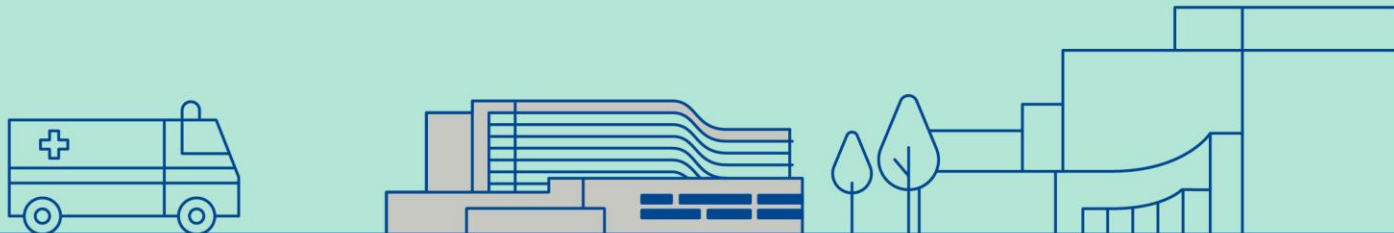
# Successes

- **Everyone acted as a team to evacuate the facility.**
- **The PIO coached the operators to respond to the many calls they were receiving about the incident.**
- **Wheelchairs and stretchers were brought over to the medical office building for evacuated patients.**
- **The Cancer Center and hospital served as a reception area for the evacuated patients and staff.**



# Opportunities

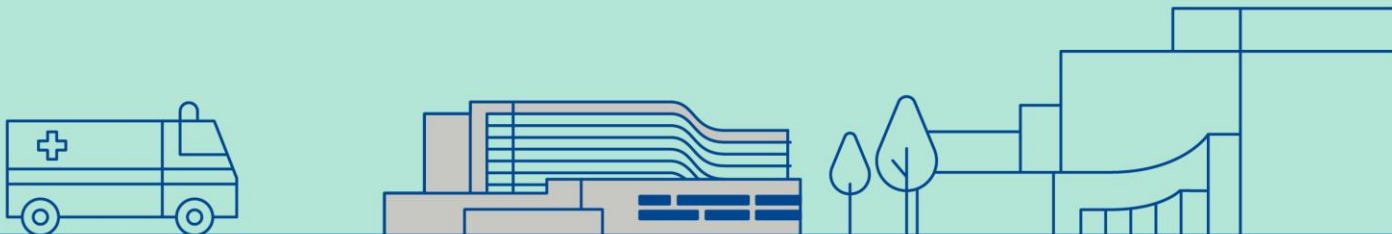
- **Communication was delayed because the emergency alert notification was not sent immediately.**
- **There were not enough Med Sleds available for use by the ambulatory surgery center and endoscopy center.**
- **Evacuated staff and patients stayed too close to the building when they exited.**
- **Some offices did not immediately evacuate.**





# Opportunities

- **Some staff members used the elevators.**
- **Some offices did not know who had evacuated and who may still be inside the building.**
- **Security did not have keys to all of the offices to ensure everyone had evacuated during their final sweep.**





**Questions?**

