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NEWS RELEASE

Public Safety Message

(Grand Junction, CO)- This morning the Grand Junction Regional Communications Center sent out a public safety message to Grand Valley residents, providing them with information about a low-flying helicopter that will be flying over Xcel gas lines in the area. The message was an attempt to answer questions people might have if they saw the helicopter, and to inform them there was no need to call police to report it. However, some of those who received the message were confused about the intent of the message, and many of those people are calling 911.

At this time we are asking you to help us spread the word that the public safety message was for informational purposes only. **People who receive the message do not need to call 911.** People receiving the message will be prompted to push "1" to hear the message. Those people should push one, but again, they do not need to call 911.

People who wish to sign up to receive emergency alerts simply need to visit www.gjcity.org, click on the Public Safety Alerts banner at the top of the web page, and then go through a few simple steps. Those signing up can decide how they want to receive the alerts: cell phone, work phone, text message, email, home phone, etc. They can also sign up multiple times using different addresses so they know what is going on around their home, child's school, work, and more. Some alerts will be geographically based, meaning during an emergency the dispatcher will draw an area on a map and those who entered addresses in that area will receive the message. Other alerts will be for informational purposes only. The messages themselves can be sent in both voice and text forms.

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