

Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Next Step in Hot Water Heater Project at Mecklenburg County Detention Center - Central to Briefly
Shut Down Hot Water

(CHARLOTTE, N.C.) – In February of this year, the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) initiated a crucial project to replace aging hot water heater tanks at the Mecklenburg County Detention Center—Central (MCDCC), along with necessary upgrades. The next step now requires a temporary shutdown of hot water to facilitate essential infrastructure improvements.

On Tuesday, July 2, the next phase of the Central Hot Water Project will begin, necessitating the temporary halt of hot water services throughout the facility. This phase specifically involves connecting the natural gas lines used for heating water at the boilers to the primary flue line responsible for gas and smoke extraction from the building. The gas supply will be turned off at 7 a.m. and is anticipated to resume by 3 p.m. on the same day. During this period, there will be no hot water available in any areas of the facility until the heaters and boilers are fully operational again.

Throughout the shutdown period, toilet and sink facilities will remain operational, ensuring basic hygiene needs are met. Showers will be offline until approximately 4 p.m., when they will be restored for night shift use. Residents are advised to plan accordingly and take showers tonight, July 1, as there will be water available throughout, albeit not heated.

MCSO emphasizes that these proactive measures are essential to replace outdated water heaters and boilers that have surpassed their expected lifespan. By adhering to scheduled maintenance and upgrades, the agency aims to prevent unplanned disruptions that could result in extended downtime lasting several days or weeks.

Additional scheduled repairs are planned over the coming weeks, but these will not impact hot water services. The entire project is expected to be complete by the end of July.

"While this temporary shutdown is necessary to advance our critical infrastructure upgrades, we understand the inconvenience it may cause to our residents. But it's the equivalent of dismantling a hot water heater and installing a new one at your home. It takes time," Sheriff McFadden said. "We are committed to completing these scheduled repairs efficiently to minimize disruption and ensure the long-term reliability of our facilities."

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