FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FOR MORE INFORMATION

September 18, 2018 William Raynard

Public Information Officer

978-774-3281

[wraynard@essexsheriffma.org](mailto:wraynard@essexsheriffma.org)

ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT COORDINATES ASSISTANCE FOR MERRIMACK VALLEY RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY THE GAS EMERGENCY

The Essex County Sheriff’s Department (ECSD) Cares initiative is an effort started by the Department to obtain donations of critical items for those affected by the gas line explosions and fires in the communities of Lawrence, Andover and North Andover.

**Donation sites are set up at three different facilities.**

Middleton House of Correction, 20 Manning Ave. Middleton, MA 01949

Essex County Pre-Release Center, 165 Marston St. Lawrence, MA 01841

Women In Transition, 197 Elm St. Salisbury, MA 01952

The donation drive will take place till September 28, 2018 at all locations. “People are dealing with extraordinary conditions and need our help. Anything we can do during this challenging time will make a big difference,” said Sheriff Coppinger.

Items needed are: hand sanitizer, clothing, socks, underwear (children & adult), blankets, toiletries, towels, small bars of soap, small bottles of shampoo, toiletries.

For anyone who would like to make a financial donation to those affected by Thursday’s explosive fires, you may contribute to the North Shore-Merrimack Valley Relief Fund by visiting any Eastern Bank branch.

####