



How to Recognize a Natural Gas Leak

Knowing how to recognize and respond to a possible leak or release is a key factor in Natural Gas Safety. A leak or release can be recognized by:



Sight: Dead or discolored plants in an otherwise healthy area of vegetation, continuous bubbling in wet or flooded areas, vaporous fogs, blowing dirt around a pipeline area, or fire coming from the ground or appearing to burn aboveground can all be indicative of a natural gas leak.



Sound: Listen for a quiet hissing, to a loud roar, depending on the size of the leak.



Smell: An unusual ROTTEN EGG smell will accompany a Natural Gas leak.

USE YOUR SENSES



What **to DO** in the Event of a Suspected or Detected Leak

To ensure your safety and the safety of those in the vicinity of natural gas leak, the following guidelines should be followed if a natural gas leak is suspected or detected:

- Turn off** gas appliances.
- Leave the area** by foot immediately. Do not try to locate the source of the odor or leak. Try to direct other individuals to leave the area. Attempt to stay upwind.
- Call 911 from a safe location**; then, notify the City of Dublin at 478-277-5050. Provide the emergency operator your name, phone number, a brief summary of the incident, and the location.

What **Not to Do** in the Event a Leak Were to Occur

- DO NOT** come into direct contact with any escaping liquids or gas.
- DO NOT** attempt to operate any natural gas valves yourself. You may inadvertently route more product to the leak or cause a secondary incident.
- DO NOT** cause any open flame or other potential source of ignition such as an electrical switch, vehicle ignition, light a match, etc. Do not start motor vehicles or electrical equipment.
- DO NOT** use telephone or cell phone. If inside a home or business, do not pull plugs from electrical outlet or open an automatic garage if the vehicle is parked inside.
- DO NOT** ring doorbells to notify others of the leak. Knock with your hand to avoid a potential spark from metal knockers.
- DO NOT** drive into a leak or vapor cloud while leaving the area.
- DO NOT** attempt to extinguish a natural gas fire. Wait for local firemen and other emergency professionals trained to deal with such emergencies.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire 911

Police 911

Medical 911

Gas Company 478-277-5050 or 911



What is Natural Gas?

Natural gas is colorless and odorless gas in its natural state.

An odorant called Mercaptan is added to the gas to give it the distinct smell of rotten eggs. Despite the bad smell, natural gas is non-toxic. However, if the natural gas accumulates in an enclosed room, it can displace the oxygen causing asphyxiation. It is lighter than air. If a release of natural gas happens outdoors, it will dissipate harmlessly into the atmosphere.

Natural gas is the safest, most dependable, and trouble free fuel known to man. As with any energy source, natural gas must be used with care and respect.

Customers need to do their part to follow recommended safety and operating practices.

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Preventing Damage

Homeowners protect yourself from injury.

Before planting trees, shrubs, installing fences, mail boxes or whatever excavating activities you are doing, make a call to your one call center. Call 811 at least two business days before you dig, auger, or move dirt in any way.



Remember for your safety and to minimize expensive repair bills, call to have your gas facilities located prior to any digging

The leading cause of accidents on a natural gas delivery system is hitting lines when digging. Serious injury or death, property damage and service outages can occur if gas pipes are struck during excavation.

Utilities will mark underground pipes at your site free of charge. Once underground facilities are marked, you are required to follow established guidelines when digging to prevent striking them.

If you are unsure as to whether you should notify Georgia 811 before you break ground, remember, even if your digging project is small, its always best to call!

What to Do if You Damage a Gas Line

If you damage a pipeline facility,

Call 911 IMMEDIATELY

Call 911 any time a gas line is broken, scraped, pulled, cut or otherwise damaged.

If the damage results in a release of natural gas and there is a danger to life or property

Call 911 IMMEDIATELY

Eliminate all ignition sources and evacuate the area of the damage.

Gas lines been pulled, stretched, kinked or bent could be damaged underground away from where the line is connected.

If you pull or stretch gas lines

Call 911 IMMEDIATELY

possible underground leakage could occur.

USE YOUR SENSES

