

# DETECTING NATURAL GAS USING YOUR **SENSES**

## **SMELL**

NATURAL GAS DOESN'T HAVE AN ODOR, SO YOU CAN'T RELY ON YOUR SENSE OF SMELL ALONE TO DETECT IT.

Steps have been taken to protect customers from natural gas leaks by adding an odorant, called mercaptan, that smells like rotting eggs or an unpleasant skunk smell.

## **SIGHT**

Natural gas may blow dirt, make bubbles, kill vegetation or create an area of frost on the ground in warm weather when it leaks from an underground pipe.

## **HAZARDS**

### **FIRE OR EXPLOSION**

Natural gas is extremely flammable and is easily ignited by heat, sparks or flames.

### **HEALTH**

Symptoms of a natural gas leak include headache, dizziness, loss of coordination, irritation, drowsiness, or unconsciousness. Extremely high concentrations of natural gas can cause suffocation from a lack of oxygen.

## **SOUND**

A natural gas leak can be a quiet hiss or a loud roar.

## **3 STEPS TO TAKE** IF YOU SMELL, SEE OR HEAR NATURAL GAS

- 1** Do not attempt to locate the leak. Leave the area immediately and do not touch anything that could cause a spark.
- 2** Call 911 from another location at a safe distance.
- 3** Do not re-enter the area until you have been advised that it is safe.



USE YOUR  
**SENSES**  
TO DETECT  
**NATURAL GAS**  
AND KEEP YOUR  
HOME SAFE

## INSIDE YOUR HOME

- > Furnaces, water heaters, gas fireplaces and ranges are all examples of appliances that may use natural gas. To keep your home safe from a leak, have regular inspections and maintenance done on gas appliances.
- > Keep the area around gas appliances free from obstructions and combustible materials.
- > Never store flammable liquids in your home or near fuel-burning appliances.
- > Purchase gas detectors for your home or business to alert the presence of natural gas in the area.
- > Always place approved end caps on pipes after removing appliances that use natural gas lines.

## OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG – IT'S THE LAW. Any time you plan to dig on your property, whether as part of a construction job or homeowner project, you must dial 811 at least two full working days before digging to have utilities located.

Professional locators will mark underground gas and electric facilities and other underground utilities within two full working days of your call.

Preserve location marks and flags until the project is complete to avoid potential injury and keep your neighborhood free from service disruption.

## HOW CAN I TELL WHERE A PIPELINE IS **LOCATED?**

Natural gas travels through miles of pipeline. Yellow pipeline markers only indicate the presence of an underground natural gas transmission pipeline in the vicinity. Contact 811 to have the pipeline located.



### **WARNING**

GAS PIPELINE  
BEFORE DIGGING CALL 811

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL  
1-800-696-LEAK (5325)

STATION NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.