



Responding to a Natural Gas Leak

Before a natural gas fire or explosion can occur, two conditions must be simultaneously met. First, natural gas and oxygen must exist in certain proportions (5% to 15% natural gas mixture). Outside of this flammability range, natural gas is too lean or too rich to burn. Secondly, there needs to be an ignition source, such as a spark or flame.

If you suspect a gas leak:

1. Remain calm.
2. Leave electrical switches, garage doors, appliances, doors and windows, and computers as they are, and immediately leave area.
3. Move to a safe location upwind of the suspected leak.
4. Do not smoke, use lighters/matches, or start any vehicles or motors nearby.
5. Do not use phones or any electronics until you have reached a safe location away from the area of the leak.
6. Make the call to the appropriate utility's 24-hour emergency number. If that is not accessible, call 911. **DO NOT ASSUME THAT SOMEONE ELSE WILL REPORT THE LEAK.**
7. If possible, warn others to stay away from the area of the leak until the utility or other authorities have determined it is safe to return to the area.