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.