

Information Bulletin

Gas Safety Information

Propane and Natural Gas (Methane) are flammable gases commonly used for cooking and heating. Both are colorless, odorless gases. As a safety precaution, a sulfur-like odorant is added to help people identify leaks. This gives the gas an unpleasant odor of sulfur or rotten eggs.



How will I know if it is leaking?

- Propane and Natural Gas can be detected by their unpleasant odor. If you can smell the gas, a dangerous situation may exist.
- Electronic gas detectors sound an alarm when they sense gas is present. These detectors are similar in appearance to smoke detectors and both battery-operated and hard-wired models are available. Cost can be as low as \$50. Gas detectors should be installed as per the manufacturer's recommendations.

In the event you suspect a leak:

- If you suspect a gas leak you should alert others and leave the area immediately.
- **NO FLAMES OR SPARKS!** Immediately put out all smoking materials and other open flames. **Do not** operate lights, appliances, telephones, or cell phones. Flames or sparks from these sources can trigger an explosion or a fire.
- **Do not** attempt to find the source of the leak yourself - call for help immediately.
- Report the leak. From a neighbor's home or other nearby building away from the gas leak, call 911 right away. Contact your gas supplier as well.
- **Do not** return to the building or area until your utility service person has determined that it is safe to do so.

Gas Safety Tips:

- **Do not** place combustible materials near fuel burning appliances.
- **Do not** place anything near fuel burning appliances so as to block or interfere with normal air flow to the burner.
- Have all gas appliances, furnaces, vents, flues, chimneys and gas lines in your home or business inspected every year by qualified industry professionals.
- Maintenance, modifications, alterations and repairs to your gas system must be performed by trained technicians. Do not attempt to work on piping and/or appliances yourself.
- **Never** tamper with, or attempt to adjust, safety devices, regulators or storage tank fittings.
- Look for the blue flame. If pilot lights and burners have a steady, blue flame, they are operating correctly. Decorative gas fire logs are the only exception as their flame is usually yellow.
- If you suspect a gas appliance has been damaged by flooding, have it serviced by a trained technician before attempting to use it.

- If your gas supply is interrupted in any way, pilot lights may have to be relit as soon as the supply is re-established. It is strongly recommended that a qualified service technician light any pilot light that has gone out.
- **Do not** ever let small children play with or near gas appliances or pipes, even the knobs on the oven or cooktop.
- **Do not** move or install a gas appliance or change the connector in any way without professional assistance.
- **Do not** ever store household chemicals or combustible materials near gas appliances.
- **Never** store or place a propane cylinder indoors or in an enclosed area such as a basement, garage, shed, or tent.
- **IT'S BEST TO BE SAFE: If you smell gas, leave the area! After you move someplace away from the odor, call emergency services, 9-1-1.**

What about carbon monoxide?

- Carbon monoxide is a deadly gas that has no color, taste or odor. It is produced when fuels such as propane and natural gas burn. If an appliance is connected to a properly functioning chimney, the carbon monoxide will be vented to the outside through the chimney. An improperly functioning fuel burning device can create a carbon monoxide hazard in the building.
- **Never** use a barbecue grill, generator or camp stove inside your home or near an open window. These items can produce large amounts of carbon monoxide that replaces the clean air in your home.
- **Never** use a gas range or oven to heat your home. Even your kitchen stove produces carbon monoxide that may accumulate in dangerous amounts if the burner remains on for an extended period.
- On the outside of your home, make sure vents for the fuel-burning appliances are clear of snow and other debris.
- As with smoke alarms, make sure you have a carbon monoxide alarm on every level of your home, especially near sleeping areas, and keep them at least 15 feet away from fuel-burning appliances. Call the local fire department if your carbon monoxide detector activates.
- Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include dizziness, headaches, loss of muscular control, vomiting, and watering eyes. Evacuate the building and call 9-1-1 for help if you or family members experience these symptoms.

