WHAT DO I DO

IF I SMELL NATURAL GAS OR THINK I HEAR BLOWING GAS?

USING YOUR SENSES
Natural gas pipelines are designed to provide safe and reliable natural gas service. However, at times a pipeline may leak. MidAmerican Energy Company adds an odorant to its natural gas so the general public can detect the leak. The odorant is called mercaptan and smells like rotting eggs or an unpleasant skunk smell. Even if you only detect a slight odor of natural gas, take action and leave your home or area immediately.

Escaping or uncontrolled natural gas may ignite when it comes in contact with a spark or flame. It also can displace oxygen, which is potentially fatal.

IF YOU SMELL GAS OR HEAR BLOWING GAS:

- Leave the premises immediately, without touching anything that could spark.
- Call MidAmerican Energy at 800-595-5325 and 911 from another location at a safe distance. MidAmerican Energy will investigate the situation at no cost to you.
- Do not re-enter the area until you have been advised that it is safe.

Si desea copia de un folleto de este importante mensaje de la seguridad del gas natural en español, o si usted tiene alguna pregunta, por favor llame a MidAmerican Energy al 888-427-5632. Tenemos representantes que le pueden asistir en español.

For more information about transmission pipeline operators located within a specified geographic area, visit the National Pipeline Mapping System website and complete a search at www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov.

IMPORTANT
PRODUCT SAFETY NOTICE
UNCOATED BRASS APPLIANCE CONNECTORS

Flexible gas appliance connectors join piping in the wall directly to a gas appliance. If the connector is uncoated and made of brass, it may present a potential hazard – these connectors may crack or break, leading to a fire or explosion with the potential for injuries or death. Although these connectors are no longer used in new installations, some remain attached to appliances in homes or other locations built prior to 1986. MidAmerican Energy recommends customers have a qualified plumbing and heating dealer replace any uncoated brass connectors with approved connectors certified by the Canadian Standards Association. Approved connectors are made of either stainless steel or plastic-coated metal that conforms to American National Standard Institute Z21.24.

WARNING: Only a qualified professional should check your connector and replace it if needed. Do not try to do this yourself!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT NATURAL GAS AND PIPELINE SAFETY ISSUES?

THE POWER TO STAY SAFE

MidAmerican Energy
OBSESSIVELY RELENTLESSLY AT YOUR SERVICE.

www.MIDAMERICANENERGY.com
PUTTING THE POWER IN YOUR HANDS TO STAY SAFE AROUND NATURAL GAS

NATURAL GAS PIPELINE SAFETY

Have you ever driven down a highway or country road and noticed warning signs along the way? As part of a comprehensive safety plan, these signs have been placed to warn you about the presence of underground natural gas transmission pipelines. The pipelines are under extreme pressure, so the natural gas can reach the communities they serve. While these pipelines consistently provide safe and reliable natural gas service, a pipeline that has been struck or damaged can result in a leak.

SIGNS OF A NATURAL GAS PIPELINE LEAK MAY INCLUDE:

- A hissing or whooshing sound.
- Dirt being blown into the air.
- Water bubbling or shooting into the air from a pond, creek or puddle.
- Dying shrubs or grass, perhaps near healthy plantings.

IF YOU OBSERVE ANY SIGNS OF A GAS PIPELINE LEAK:

- Leave the immediate area.
- Extinguish smoking materials and other small flames.
- DO NOT attempt to extinguish a burning gas leak.
- Contractors: Turn off and abandon equipment. Do not attempt to move any machinery.
- Eliminate other sources of ignition (e.g. a nearby car with the engine running, cell phones).
- Call MidAmerican Energy at 800-595-5325 and 911 from a safe distance. Do not re-enter the area until you have been advised that it is safe.

CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

Any time you plan to dig, whether as part of a construction job or homeowner project, such as putting up a fence, planting trees or installing a deck, dial 811 at least two full working days before digging – it’s a free service and it’s the law. One Call will contact owners of underground facilities, including MidAmerican Energy locators, who will mark MidAmerican Energy-owned underground gas and electric facilities within two full working days of your call. To prevent excavator injury, preserve the locate marks and flags until the project is complete.

Customer-owned piping, including those running to grills, yard lights or outbuildings, will not be marked. Contact a plumbing and heating dealer or qualified private contractor to locate customer-owned gas piping. After the precise location of any buried gas piping is identified, use only hand tools to uncover the line.

GAS METER SAFETY

The area around your gas meter needs to be kept free of debris, snow, ice and obstructions at all times.

- Do not build permanent structures over, near or around the meter set or other MidAmerican Energy facilities.
- Notify MidAmerican Energy at 888-427-5632 if you:
  - Have ice build-up on the gas meter. This may cause a gas regulator, next to the meter, to malfunction and create a safety hazard.
  - Will be completing work that may require relocation of MidAmerican Energy’s facilities, such as building additions, decks, garages, landscaping, etc.

GUARD AGAINST CO POISONING

Any fuel that is not completely burned produces carbon monoxide (CO), a colorless, odorless gas. Symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to flu-like illnesses. They include dizziness, fatigue, headaches, nausea and irregular breathing.

To guard against CO poisoning, have your home-heating systems, including chimneys and flues, inspected each year for proper operation and potential leakage.

In addition, every home should have at least one CO detector on every level. A properly working carbon monoxide detector can provide an early warning before the deadly gas builds up to a dangerous level. If your CO detector is alarming or if you suspect CO poisoning, leave your home immediately. Seek medical attention if you or a family member is ill. Contact a qualified plumbing and heating dealer to make any necessary repairs.

HOW CAN I TELL WHERE A PIPELINE IS LOCATED?

- Pipeline marker posts with warning decal.
- Pipeline marker signs used at town border stations, town regulator stations and fenced district regulator stations.

NOTE: Pipeline markers only indicate the presence of a pipeline in the vicinity. Contact 811 to have the pipeline located.

NATURAL GAS APPLIANCES

Common gas appliances include furnaces, water heaters, gas fireplaces and ranges. Stay safe around natural gas by following these safety tips.

- Have regular inspections and maintenance done on your gas appliances.
- Keep the area around gas appliances free from obstructions and combustible materials.
- Provide MidAmerican Energy Company access to the meter and equipment when necessary.
- Never store flammable liquids in your home or near fuel-burning appliances.
- Have your gas appliance connectors checked by a qualified plumbing and heating dealer for possible defects.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS OF NATURAL GAS

Fire or Explosion:

- Extremely flammable – easily ignited by heat, sparks, or flames.
- Will form explosive mixtures with air.
- Vapor may travel to ignition source and flashback.

Health:

- Leaking natural gas is a health hazard. It can cause loss of coordination, dizziness and headache.

ON THE ROAD

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