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.

MidAmerican Energy has taken steps to protect customers from natural gas leaks by adding an odorant, called mercaptan, that smells like rotten 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.

SOUND

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

HAZARDS

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

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 MidAmerican Energy at 800-595-5325 and 911 from another location at a safe distance. MidAmerican Energy will investigate the situation at no cost.

3. Do not re-enter the area until you have been advised it is safe.

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 asphyxiation from a lack of oxygen.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT NATURAL GAS AND PIPELINE SAFETY, visit MidAmericanEnergy.com/safety or call us at 888-427-5632.

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.npmms.phmsa.dot.gov.

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.

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 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.
- Provide MidAmerican Energy personnel access to the meter and equipment when necessary.

**GUARD AGAINST CO POISONING**

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is the result of incompletely burned fuel. To protect your family and your home from exposure to CO:

- Have your home heating systems, including chimneys and flues, inspected regularly.
- Never use a gas range or stove to heat your home.
- Install and operate approved appliances by a nationally recognized testing laboratory according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Purchase a CO detector for every level of your home, and test and maintain it according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

**IMPORTANT PRODUCT SAFETY NOTICE:**

**UNCOATED BRASS APPLIANCE CONNECTORS**

Gas appliance connectors attach natural gas piping to gas appliances in your home. Connectors that are uncoated and made of brass are not compliant and no longer used in new installations due to the hazards they present. If you notice an uncoated brass appliance connector in your home, contact a qualified plumbing and heating dealer to replace it with an approved connector made of stainless steel or plastic-coated metal.

**WARNING:** Only a qualified professional should check your connector for defects and replace it if needed. Do not try to replace it yourself.

**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 MidAmerican Energy-owned underground gas and electric facilities and other underground utilities within two full working days of your call. Customers must contact a qualified plumbing and heating dealer or a qualified private contractor at www.usilca.com (select Private Utility Request) to mark custom-owned gas piping, such as lines that run to natural gas grills or outbuildings.

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

**GAS METER SAFETY**

If you notice obstructions on or around the meter, like ice build-up, or if you will be completing yard work that may require relocation of gas meters, notify MidAmerican Energy at 888-427-5632.

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

Natural gas travels through miles of pipeline. MidAmerican Energy maintains our pipelines according to federal regulations to provide safe, reliable service.

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

**NOTE:** Relying on a valve alone to stop the flow of natural gas on open-ended pipes is not compliant with state codes. A plug or additional fail-safe should be added by a qualified professional.