

# If You Smell Gas

Gas leaks are dangerous. It's important that you know how to recognize and report a gas emergency.

Natural gas is odorless and colorless, so we add a harmless substance to it to make it smell like rotten eggs. Why? So you can easily detect a gas leak.

**If you smell gas or suspect a gas leak:**

## DO:

- 👉 Leave the area at once.
- 👉 Go to a location where you no longer smell gas, outside of the house or building.
- 👉 Call 800.642.1826 immediately to report the situation.

## DON'T:

- 👉 Light matches or smoke. Avoid use of all open flames.
- 👉 Use any electrical device, including appliances, doorbells and garage door openers.
- 👉 Turn light switches on and off.
- 👉 Use any phones, including cellular phones.
- 👉 Try to locate the source of the gas leak.
- 👉 Re-enter the building or return to the area until CERC tells you it's safe to do so.

**TRUST YOUR SENSES.**

SMELL. SEE. HEAR.

Suspect a natural gas leak?  
First, move your feet!  
Then call when you're down the street.

Outside or in, detecting a natural gas leak is easy. To help you **SMELL** a leak from a gas line or appliance, a familiar odor like rotten eggs is often added to natural gas. Or you might **SEE** blowing dirt, bubbling water or an unusual area of dead vegetation. A leaking pipeline might also make a hissing sound you can **HEAR**.

Also, remember to call the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS), 1-800-362-2764, at least two working days before digging on your property. And if you suspect a gas leak—walk away, right away. Once clear of the area, call your local natural gas company or 9-1-1.

[safegasohio.org](http://safegasohio.org)

**CERC**  
Community Energy Resources  
Cooperative  
A Division of Union Band Electric

This safety awareness message is brought to you by the natural gas member companies of the Ohio Gas Association.

# The Three Rs of Natural Gas Safety

If you think you have a natural gas emergency, go to a safe location. Then call CERC toll-free at 800.642.1826. It is important that you call -- DO NOT E-MAIL -- and report the emergency. Feel free to print this page and leave it with your emergency numbers in case you have a gas emergency.

Knowing how to **RECOGNIZE, REACT TO and REPORT** natural gas emergencies can eliminate or minimize their consequences.

## RECOGNIZE

Signs of a natural gas leak include:

- A "rotten egg" odor
- A blowing or hissing sound
- Dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area
- Flames, if a leak has ignited
- Dirt or dust blowing from a hole in the ground
- Bubbling in wet or flooded areas

## REACT

If you suspect a natural gas leak, follow these steps:

- Leave the area immediately and call us at 800.642.1826, then follow our instructions.
- Do not use any electrical device, such as light switches, telephones or appliances such as garage door openers. They could spark and ignite the gas.
- Do not use an open flame, matches or lighters.
- Do not try to locate the source of the gas leak.
- Do not try to shut off any gas valves or appliances.
- Do not start vehicles.
- Do not re-enter the building or return to the area until a CERC employee says it's safe to do so.
- If the natural gas ignites, let it burn. Do not put out the flame; burning gas will not explode.

If you are digging and think you may have damaged a natural gas pipeline, leave the area immediately. If you are using motorized equipment and can turn off the motor safely, do so to prevent the ignition of any leaking gas. Then abandon the equipment and leave the area. Never restart equipment until the surrounding environment has been checked and declared safe.

## REPORT

- It is important that you call about natural gas emergencies. *Do not e-mail us.*
- If you think you have a natural gas emergency, go to a safe location. Then call CERC's toll-free at 800.642.1826
- If you see unusual activity near a natural gas pipeline or facility, call us immediately at 800.642.1826.

**Calls can be made 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We will respond promptly and at no charge.**