



**SCRATCH THE CENTER OF THE FLAME  
& LET YOUR FAMILY SNIFF**

# NATURAL GAS

**THE ONLY THING  
WORSE THAN  
SMELLING IT IS  
IGNORING IT**

**Natural gas has a built-in odor for your safety. Look here to learn more.**



Natural gas is odorless. The odor you smell is a chemical we add to natural gas so you can detect even the smallest amount that might escape. Everyone should be able to recognize it and associate it with natural gas.

Natural gas has a safety record we can all be proud of. We are working to keep it that way. Knowing this odor and what to do when you smell it helps keep you and your family safe.

## IF YOU EVER SMELL THIS ODOR:

### LEAVE YOUR HOUSE...

Do not light a match... Do not turn your lights on or off... Do not use a cellular phone inside the house... Call us immediately from a neighbors house or a cellular phone when you are safely outside the house. We'll have a service man investigate the problem.

## NATURAL GAS IS NOT POISONOUS

It does not contain carbon monoxide, the cause of so-called "Gas Poisoning." However, when burning gas or any fuel, carbon monoxide can be produced by lack of air, improperly working appliances or poor flue conditions. As a basic precaution, be sure that flue connections and venting are always in perfect working order — unobstructed and properly fitted.

## GAS IS A MARVELOUS SERVANT

Whether you use it for cooking, to heat water, dry clothes, heat or air-condition your house, natural gas is a marvelous servant, especially when conserved and used properly. Gas is dependable. Natural gas has a safety record that is outstanding. We work constantly to keep it that way.

### Lake Park Public Utilities

2032 2nd Street

PO Box 239

Lake Park, MN 56554

8:00 - 4:30

218-238-5532

After Hours:

218-238-5337

Email:

info@lakeparkmn.com

# NATURAL GAS



**THE ONLY THING WORSE THAN SMELLING IT, IS IGNORING IT**

# Please read the information below on Natural Gas Pipeline Safety!



**SOUND:** Volume can range from a quiet hissing to a loud roar, depending on the size of the leak and pipeline system.



**SMELL:** An unusual smell, petroleum odor, or gaseous odor will sometimes accompany pipeline leaks. Natural gas is colorless, tasteless, and odorless, unless commercial odorant is added. Gas transmission/gas gathering pipelines are odorless, but may have a hydrocarbon smell.



**SIGHT:** Liquid pools, continuous bubbling in wet or flooded areas, an oily sheet on water surfaces, vaporous fogs and/or blowing dirt around a pipeline area. Dead or discolored plants in an otherwise healthy area of vegetation or frozen ground in warm weather are all signs of a pipeline leak. Natural gas is colorless, tasteless, and odorless, but vapor and "ground frosting" may be visible at high pressures. A natural gas leak may also be indicated by dust blowing from a hole in the ground or flames, if the leak is ignited.

## Gas Odor

Lake Park Public Utilities supplies natural gas to many customers within city limits. As part of our safety program, we want everyone to be aware of this odor and how to report it. If you have any indication of a gas smell, leave the building immediately and go to a neighbors house to call City Hall. We will have one of our trained utility workers check for a gas leak immediately. We provide this gas sniffer information twice a year in an effort to educate and promote safety.

The Lake Park Public Utilities operates a system of underground natural gas pipelines to provide safe and economical energy to the residents and businesses of our community. Pipelines are one of the safest transportation methods available, but in the unlikely event a natural gas leak occurs it can cause a fire or explosion. We want to help you stay safe around gas facilities. This brochure is designed to assist in that effort, providing information on reacting to and reporting suspected gas leaks and on excavation safety. If you have further questions please contact us:

**Lake Park Public Utilities**  
2032 2nd Street (218) 238-5532  
After Hours (218) 238-5337

Email: [info@lakeparkmn.com](mailto:info@lakeparkmn.com)

**Remember, suspected gas leaks are potentially dangerous and must be reported and investigated immediately. We need your help to continue to operate a safe distribution system.**

## Excavation Safety

Dig-in (excavation) damage is a leading cause of gas system damage. To minimize this hazard, the most important thing you can do is **Call Before You Dig. Gopher State One Call** is a free statewide service that allows utilities to locate any buried facilities they own before you start digging. Just call 2 business days before digging and provide the requested information to the operator. GSOC can be reached at **800-252-1166** or dial **811**.

## Natural Gas Notice

Lake Park Public Utilities does not maintain the buried gas piping downstream of your meter. If you as a homeowner have buried gas piping, it needs to be maintained as it is subject to the potential hazards of corrosion and leakage. Buried gas piping should be inspected for leaks as frequently as needed, but at intervals not exceeding 5 years; periodically inspected for corrosion if the piping is metallic; and repair if any unsafe condition is discovered. **Always use a licensed contractor for your Natural Gas plumbing.**

**If you suspect a leak:**

- **EVACUATE** the area immediately-travel upwind to escape any potentially dangerous accumulation of gas and do not reenter until told it is safe to do so
- **CALL** the gas supplier from a safe location—NOT the building where you smell gas
- **DO NOT** light a match, operate light switches, appliances, engines, or any other potential sources of ignition
- **KEEP** other people out of the area until help arrives

## Natural Gas Excess Flow Valve Customer Notification

In accordance with recent federal pipeline safety regulations, Lake Park Public Utilities is required to notify all natural gas customers of the new excess flow valve (EFV) requirements. Effective April 14, 2017 EFV installation requirements are expanded to include new or replaced service lines to single family residences, multifamily residences and small commercial customers with natural gas volumes not exceeding 1,000 standard cubic feet per hour. Existing customers also have the right to request the installation of an EFV on their service line at their own expense if it meets the Specified conditions per the final rule.

### What is an Excess Flow Valve (EFV)?

An EFV is a mechanical shut-off device installed in the service line designed to stop the flow of natural gas in the event that the service line is completely cut, torn apart or otherwise separated, typically caused by some type of excavation or digging, downstream of the EFV. Stopping the flow of natural gas from a broken service line significantly reduces the risk of a natural gas fire, explosion, personal injury and property damage. EFV's are typically installed on the service line near the connection to the natural gas main.

### What won't an Excess Flow Valve (EFV) do?

EFV's are not designed to close if a leak occurs after the gas meter (on house piping or appliances). EFV's also may not close if the leak on the service line is small.

### What specified conditions allow for the installation of an Excess Flow Valve (EFV)?

Installation requirements include service lines to single family residences, multifamily residences and small commercial customers with gas volumes not exceeding 1,000 standard cubic feet per hour and at a pressure not less than 10 p.s.i. Customers may request that the Lake Park Public Utilities install an EFV on the service line to their property by contacting the Lake Park Public Utilities at 218-238-5532 to determine if their service line meets the specified conditions of the code. Customers requesting the installation of an EFV will be responsible for the actual cost of the installation and will be provided with a range of the estimated cost. Upon the completion of the work, customers will be billed for the actual cost of the installation. Sizing of an EFV is based upon the current natural gas load at the time of installation, any future changes to the natural gas load could result in a malfunction of the EFV and warrant replacement at the customer cost. Additionally, customer are responsible for any future maintenance or replacement cost with the EFV. Installation dates must be mutually agreed upon by the customer and the Lake Park Public Utilities.