

# Natural Gas Leaks

## Natural gas leaks can be hazardous

- Natural gas vapors are lighter than air and will generally rise and dissipate. They may gather in confined spaces and travel to a source of ignition.
- While natural gas is non-toxic, in high concentrations, it may cause dizziness or asphyxiation without warning.
- Under certain conditions, natural gas leaking into the atmosphere can result in flammable mixtures that can ignite. Keep ignition sources away.

JPC Energy immediately dispatches personnel to the site to help handle the emergency and provide information to public safety officials to aid in their response. Our personnel will restrict the flow of gas as needed to protect people, property and the environment.

The best way to **recognize a natural gas leak** is to use your eyes, ears, and nose.



**Look for signs of a possible leak**



**Listen for any unusual noise**



**Smell\***

Distinctive, strong odor, often compared to rotten eggs or sulfur

*\*Some persons may not be able to smell the odor because they have a diminished sense of smell, olfactory fatigue (normal, temporary inability to distinguish an odor after prolonged*

exposure to it) or because the odor is being masked or hidden by other odors that are present in the area, such as cooking smells or damp, musty, or chemical odors.

In addition, under certain rare circumstances, odor fade (the loss of odorant so that it is not readily detectable by smell) can occur. Odor fade is caused by physical and chemical processes. Other factors that may cause odor fade include: construction and configuration of the customer's gas facilities; presence of rust, moisture, liquids, or other substances in the pipe; gas composition, pressure, and flow; intermittent, little, or no gas flow over an extended period that normally lasts until the gas flow increases or becomes more frequent; new pipe installations; steel and larger pipes; and certain types of dry soil.

Residential methane detectors are available and can provide an additional ability to detect the presence of gas. These alarms must be selected and installed according to the manufacturer's instructions. Learn more at the [Gas Technology Institute](#).

## Contact Us



**Leak Emergency**

337-786-6251  
or 911

## How To Recognize A Natural Gas Leak



### **Look for signs of a possible leak**

Persistent bubbling in standing water

Discolored or dead vegetation around the pipeline area

Dense white cloud or fog

Slight mist of ice

Unexplained frozen ground near the pipeline



### **Listen for any unusual noise**

Whistling, hissing or roaring sound



## Smell\*

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Natural gas is one of the safest and most reliable fuels available and rarely does a mechanical failure or storm interrupt its dependable delivery. CenterPoint Energy continually monitors our pipeline system to ensure safe and reliable delivery of natural gas to your home.

For your protection, we add an odorant to natural gas, so you can detect even the slightest amount of natural gas in the air. View our safety pages to learn the facts about natural gas to help keep you safe, such as what to do if you suspect a [natural gas leak](#).

### Physical properties of natural gas:

- Natural gas is colorless and odorless.
- Natural gas is primarily methane, with small amounts of other hydrocarbons.
- Natural gas is non-toxic.
- Natural gas is lighter than air; if it escapes, it will rise and dissipate.
- Natural gas is clean-burning; when burned with the proper amount of air, it produces heat, carbon dioxide and water vapor.