



- Evacuate and ventilate the structure if the presence of carbon monoxide is suspected. Notify NW Natural as soon as possible.
- Warn homeowners not to use or store combustible materials or liquids with flammable vapors near natural gas appliances.

**NATURAL GAS VEHICLE SAFETY:**

A CNG (compressed natural gas) and LNG (liquefied natural gas) fueled vehicle information sheet is available by contacting NW Natural. The information includes CNG/LNG properties and emergency response practices.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

visit the safety section of [nwnatural.com](http://nwnatural.com) or call:  
**800.422.4012**



*Are you*  
**PREPARED?**

**NATURAL GAS SAFETY INFORMATION FOR  
POLICE PERSONNEL**



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# Information all POLICE PERSONNEL SHOULD KNOW

Police personnel usually reach an accident or emergency scene before the gas emergency crew, and they should know in advance the procedures and precautions to follow in the event of a gas emergency. The information contained in this brochure should serve as a guide to help keep the communities we serve and officers safe.



## WHAT IS NATURAL GAS?

Natural gas is a nontoxic, colorless, odorless fuel which is about one-third lighter than air. We give it a rotten egg odor so you'll be able to detect a leak. Natural gas has a limited range of flammability approximately 5 to 15 percent gas-to-air by volume and a high ignition point of about 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit. When mixed with air in the right proportion and ignited, natural gas will burn or explode.

## HOW SAFE IS NATURAL GAS?

Natural gas has an excellent safety record, but emergencies still can occur. Here are some examples.

- Natural gas escaping from a pipe or pipe fitting could result in a fire or explosion.
- While natural gas is nontoxic, if sufficient gas accumulates in a constricted space, it can displace the air causing asphyxiation.

- Improperly operating natural gas appliances may produce carbon monoxide.
- A pilot or burner can ignite flammable materials if used or stored too close to a natural gas appliance.

## WHAT SHOULD POLICE PERSONNEL DO IN CASE OF A NATURAL GAS EMERGENCY?

### Natural gas escaping inside:

- Secure and evacuate the area.
- Notify NW Natural as soon as possible.
- Call the local fire department.

### Natural gas escaping outside:

- Secure and evacuate the area.
- Notify NW Natural as soon as possible.
- Call the local fire department.

### Natural gas burning outside:

- Secure the area.
- Notify NW Natural as soon as possible.
- Do not extinguish flames unless instructed to do so by NW Natural.
- Do not operate any gas valves.



HOW TO CONTACT US:  
24-hour odor emergency line  
**800.882.3377**



## HOW CAN YOU EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON WHAT TO DO IF THEY SMELL GAS?

**SMELL** - How to identify a possible gas leak:

- Unusual odor or scent (rotten egg or sulfur smell)
- Unusual hissing sound
- Blowing dirt

**GO** - What to do:

- Leave the structure or area.
- **DON'T** start a vehicle in a garage or near any natural gas odor.
- **DON'T** use any electrical or battery-operated device, such as a light switch, phone, appliance or garage door opener.
- **DON'T** smoke or use a match or lighter.
- **DON'T** try to find the leak.

**LET US KNOW** - Who to call:

- Use a cell phone away from the area or a neighbor's phone to call NW Natural at 800.882.3377 and report the odor immediately!

## GENERAL HAZARDS:

- Incomplete combustion and the presence of carbon monoxide are indicated by soot deposits; broken or separated flues; yellow burner flames; flame roll-out; and reports of eye or throat irritation, dizziness, drowsiness, nausea.

