

RECOGNIZE A LEAK

Natural gas lines carry gaseous materials. Natural gas is lighter than air and will rise. Other heavier-than-air gases (such as propane gas) will stay near the ground and collect in low spots. Leaking natural gas is potentially dangerous. Although it is non-toxic, it can displace the oxygen you breathe causing suffocation.

You can recognize a leak:

- By Sight: a dense white cloud over a pipeline, discolored vegetation surrounding the gas line, and/or blowing dirt or dust may all be signs of a leak.
- By Sound: an unusual noise coming from the natural gas line, like a hissing or roaring sound, may be a sign of a leak.
- By Smell: a natural gas leak is indicated by the strong odor of the chemical *ethyl mercaptan*, which is added to natural gas. This odor is often described as smelling like “rotten eggs.”

What to do if you recognize a leak . . .

- Leave the leak area immediately.
- If the leak is at your home, leave the door open as you leave.
- Go to a safe location and call the City of Auburn at 438-6151 during office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (except holidays). After hours or holidays call the Auburn Police Department at 438-3351 and they will immediately dispatch the City on-call.

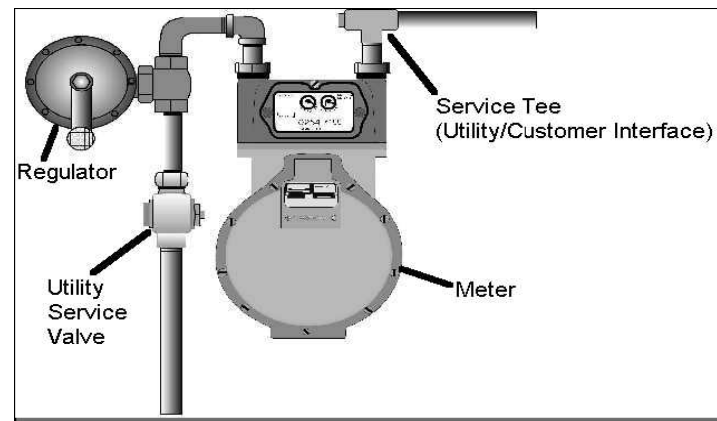
What **NOT** to do if you recognize a leak . . .

- Do NOT use the telephone, cell phone, television or radio.
- Do NOT light a match, turn on or off light switches, turn on a flashlight or anything that may create a spark.
- Do NOT use an automatic garage door.
- Do NOT turn on the gas range or other gas appliance.

METER SAFETY

Each natural gas service is equipped with a meter(s) which serves the customer. If a gas line is accidentally broken and a leak is obvious, shut off any equipment or open flames in the area which might ignite the gas, evacuate the area and report the leak immediately to the City of Auburn at 438-6151 during office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (except holidays). After hours or holidays call the Auburn Police Department at 438-3351 and they will immediately dispatch the City on-call. In an emergency, the gas to any house can be shutoff at the meter.

Gas meters should be kept free from obstructions, such as trees and shrubs, to provide access to the meter for maintenance as well as in the event of an emergency.



If you ever have any questions about your gas or water meters, please call us at 217-438-6151 anytime between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

The most likely type of an emergency on a pipeline is a leak caused by excavation and construction equipment owned by parties other than the gas company. Do not assume the location or depth of a gas line. Also, the gas line is not necessarily laid in a straight line.



Before you dig or excavate, you MUST contact J.U.L.I.E. at 1-800-892-0123 or at 8-1-1. This is a free, one-call locator service that contacts member utility companies to send a representative to mark their underground lines at your site. You are required by law to notify J.U.L.I.E. not less than two (2) working days before digging, excavation or demolition activity begins, whether landscaping, building fences or a major construction project. The call is free and so is the service.

Calling before you dig, either by hand or with machinery, could prevent possible accidents, injuries or death. Call 1-800-892-0123 or the easy-to-remember number 8-1-1.

Can I build or dig on a right-of-way?

Natural gas pipeline rights-of-way must be kept free from structures and other obstructions to provide access to the gas line for maintenance, as well as in the event of an emergency. Do not dig or build near the gas line without first contacting the City of Auburn Gas Department.

What to do if you dig and disturb or damage a natural gas line:

Even if you cause what appears to be only minor damage to the gas line, notify the City of Auburn Gas Department (438-6151) immediately. A gouge, scrape, dent, or crease to the pipe or coating may cause a future rupture or leak. It is important that the City of Auburn inspects and repairs any damage to the line. Regardless of how “minor” the damage appears, **DON'T COVER IT UP!** Do NOT attempt to make repairs the line yourself.

Office: (217) 438-6151
Garage: (217) 438-6605
Website: auburncnet.com

Business Hours:
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS

Federal Regulation #192 requires that we notify you to exercise diligence regarding underground or buried gas piping. Buried pipe may be subject to leakage and/or corrosion (corrosion may occur on metallic pipe) and could potentially be subject to hazards if not maintained.

Remember that any and all gas pipe downstream (house side) of the gas meter belongs to you, the gas consumer, and the gas consumer is responsible for maintenance and operation of this portion of the fuel line system. We do not own the gas line beyond the meter; therefore, we do not routinely maintain or locate fuel lines. Commercial plumbers and/or heating contractors may be contacted if and when gas fuel lines need attention.

Buried gas piping should be

- Periodically inspected for leaks
- Periodically inspected for corrosion if the piping is metallic
- Repaired if any unsafe condition is discovered, or the flow of gas should be shut off.

When excavation is performed or is about to be performed near the buried gas piping, the piping should be located and marked in advance, and any excavating performed near the pipe should be done by hand.



DIGGING?
Call J.U.L.I.E.
1-800-892-0123
or 8-1-1.

SAFETY WARNING

Flexible gas connectors are used to bring gas from supply pipes to appliances such as stoves, dryers, and room heaters. They are made of corrugated metal tubing -- new models being fabricated from stainless steel or from brass that has been coated with plastic. Most older connectors, however, were made from uncoated brass.

Some of the uncoated brass connectors have a serious flaw in the way they were made. Solder was used to braze, or join, the flexible brass tubing to the new pieces. Over time, the brazing can fail causing a serious gas leak. This could lead to an explosion or fire.

To our knowledge, brazed uncoated brass connectors have not been made since 1976, but we still find many of them in use. The older these connectors get, the greater the possibility of failure. It is very difficult to see whether a flexible connector has been brazed, so don't take a chance. If you have an uncoated brass connector in your home, it should be replaced with either a new stainless steel or a new plastic coated brass connector.

In fact, it's a good practice to replace any flexible gas connector which is more than 10 years old. This is because flexible connectors are not meant to last a lifetime. Older units can wear out from too much moving or bending or from corrosion. If you can, check your flexible connector without moving the appliance attached to it. If you cannot make this check without moving the appliance, we recommend that you have a service contractor inspect the connector for you. Moving the appliance could strain the connector, possibly causing a gas leak. So, if your appliance must be moved, it's best to have a professional on hand to do it.

If a replacement is needed, make sure the new connector is certified by the American Gas Association (AGA) and conforms to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard Z21.24.