

Natural Gas Facts Sheet

Source Dominion Energy Customer Connection Nov 2022 & Feb 2023

- **Natural Gas is Naturally Odorless**

That unusual smell is harmless chemical that is added to natural gas to help you detect leaks. This rotten-egg like odorant as a safety precaution because natural gas has no odor of its own.

- **Natural Gas is Non-Toxic (not poisonous).**

If you inhale it, nothing harmful will be absorbed into your blood.

- **Natural Gas is lighter-than-Air**

If it escapes into the atmosphere, it dissipates rapidly. Heavier-than-air gases like propane and gasoline fumes settle and accumulate near the ground where ignition sources are more common.

- **Natural Gas is Colorless**

When mixed with the proper amount of air and ignited, invisible natural gas burns with a clean blue flame. It is one of the cleanest-burning fuels, producing primary heat, carbon dioxide and water vapor.

- **Natural Gas Burns Only When Properly Mixed With Air**

Natural gas will only ignite when there is an air-to-gas mixture between 5 and 15 percent natural gas. Any mixture containing less than 5 percent or greater than 15 percent natural gas will not ignite.

How to Identify an Outside Gas Leak

The following signs may indicate a natural gas pipeline leak or failure:



"Rotten egg" odor*



Hissing, roaring or blowing sound



Dirt being blown into the air



Water being blown into the air at a pond, river or creek



Continuous bubbling in wet, flooded areas



Fire at or near exposed piping



Flames coming from the ground



Dead or brown vegetation in an otherwise moist or green field

Sample: Gas Meter Shut Off Tools

