

Natural Gas Safety In Your Home

To burn properly natural gas must mix with the right amount of air and be ignited by a spark or flame. Burning natural gas without enough air produces a deadly gas – carbon monoxide. Breathing natural gas is harmful because it contains no oxygen. And because natural gas is colorless and odorless, a chemical with a distinct smell is added to alert you of a leak. The added odor smells like rotten eggs. Teach all members of your family to recognize the “rotten egg” smell of natural gas, so they will know what to do if they smell it.

A faint odor of gas may mean that a pilot light has gone out and should be relit; however, a strong odor means you should leave the home at once and call your local utility or emergency personnel from a neighbor’s home. Do not turn any electrical switches on or off or use a telephone or flashlight, because an electric spark could ignite the gas and cause an explosion. Never try to locate a leak yourself – it could be fatal. When in doubt – GET OUT! Let the experts who work for your local gas provider or emergency personnel handle this.

Be sure to keep all natural gas appliances clean. Never use the kitchen range as a space heater. This can produce dangerous carbon monoxide gas. Have your natural gas appliances installed, serviced and repaired by professionals. Keep chimney flues and vents for all appliances clean and in good condition. Keep areas around your gas water heater and furnace clean and free of flammable substances.

Teach small children to stay away from all gas burning appliances. Take them on a tour of your home’s gas-burning appliances, emphasizing the importance of safe operation. Explain to them that they must never swing from or play with pipes leading into your home or to appliances or any outdoor meters.

Practice safety drills and emergency home evacuation drills. Keep emergency numbers handy and teach young family members how to call for help when needed.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire _____ 911 _____

Police _____ 911 _____

Medical _____ 911 _____

Gas Company _____ 478-277-5050 or 911 _____