

At Washington Gas, our commitment is to deliver natural gas to you in a safe and reliable way. Through a variety of channels, we inform you throughout the year on the qualities of natural gas and important safety tips. Please read the information below and share it with others.

## NATURAL GAS SAFETY

### *If You Smell Natural Gas*

If you suspect a natural gas leak or other gas emergency and are unsure of its severity or what to do, evacuate the area immediately and **call 911** from a safe location. Never attempt to locate the source of the odor.

### RECOGNIZE

Natural gas is non-toxic, colorless, odorless and combustible. For safety and detection, Washington Gas adds an unpleasant odorant called mercaptan to the natural gas traveling through most of its pipelines. Call **202-624-6092** for a "Scratch & Sniff" brochure. Large groups and property managers are invited to request multiple copies. Because gas traveling through a **small** portion of our transmission pipelines is not odorized, visible and audible signs of a possible leak are also described below.

### REACT

**If you think you smell natural gas, first leave the area and then call 911 or the Washington Gas Emergency Leak Line at 703-750-1400. Dial 1-800-752-7520 outside the local calling area.**

If the odor is very strong, or you hear a blowing or hissing noise, vacate the building or area immediately, leaving doors unlocked as you go. Warn others as you exit if possible. Do nothing that could create an ignition source. Do not light a match or use any type of phone or battery-powered equipment. Do not turn electrical equipment or light switches on or off. Do not start a car or any type of motorized equipment. **Call 911** or the Washington Gas emergency numbers for your area, listed immediately above, only after you are a safe distance away from the building or area. Follow the same precautions if you are outside and smell gas; hear hissing or blowing noises; see dirt being thrown into the air; fire coming from the ground or appearing to burn above ground; water bubbling or being blown into the air at a pond, creek or river; or if you see a dry spot in a moist field or dead or dying vegetation on or near a pipeline right-of-way.

Natural gas is distributed through a network of underground pipes and service lines. If a leak should occur it is possible for gas to migrate into buildings, including those without natural gas service.

### RESPOND

Washington Gas responds 24 hours a day, seven days a week to natural gas leaks and other emergencies. If a leak poses an immediate threat, the company takes quick action to make the area safe. Corrective action may be scheduled for a later date if there is no immediate threat.

### **Prevent Pipeline Damage - Call 811 Before You Dig**

Digging-related damage is a major cause of pipeline accidents. When any kind of work that involves altering the ground's surface – including, but not limited to: general digging, gardening, landscaping, home improvements and/or major construction, excavation or demolition – everyone, including homeowners and construction companies, is encouraged to notify their damage prevention One-Call Center. When using mechanized equipment, it is required **by law**. The national **Miss Utility/Call Before You Dig** telephone number – **811** – initiates the process of marking the underground utility lines in your yard or on your job. Always call **811 at least two full business days** (excluding weekends and holidays) *before* you are scheduled to begin any excavation regardless of the size or depth. This service is **free**. If there is no evidence of markings – high visibility safety paint and/or flags – check back with **811** to ensure no utilities were found. Always call **811 before** you dig, each time, every time, to prevent serious injury and property damage.



Know what's below.  
**Call before you dig.**

To learn more, visit **washingtongas.com**.



**Washington  
Gas**