

GAS LEAKS – A SERIOUS CONCERN

LET YOUR SNIFFER KEEP YOU SAFE

Gas is an odorless and colorless gas that presents a serious safety concern in your home and business if a leak occurs. To make leaks easily detectable, an unpleasant odorant is added to natural gas. Being able to detect a natural gas leak is important because escaping or uncontrolled natural gas presents two dangers:

1. It may ignite if it comes in contact with a spark or flame.
2. It can displace oxygen, which is potentially fatal.

Here are a few natural gas safety tips to keep you and your family safe:

1. Always operate gas appliances in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.
2. If you suspect a leak, immediately call Emmetsburg Municipal Utilities at 712-852-2550 for aid. After hours, call the on-call/emergency number, 712-480-2552.
3. If you smell gas, avoid doing anything that might produce static or sparks, such as touching any electrical switches, telephones (including cell phones), or smoking. Do not turn light switches on and do not use any telephone on the premises. Leave the area entirely.
4. If odor is extremely strong, evacuate the building and call for help from another location.
5. Insure that only a qualified person turns gas back on and relights appliances.
6. Be aware of symptoms of illness from inadequate air supply. They include: headaches, ringing in the ears, vomiting, fluttering or throbbing of the heart. These symptoms could mean a problem with chimney exhaust.
7. If you suspect an exhaust problem, get fresh air, shut off the gas, and have the problem checked by an expert.
8. To make sure all of your gas appliances – clothes dryer, water heater, furnace or stove – are operating properly, contact a qualified plumbing and heating dealer for an inspection.
9. Make sure no clothing, paper, rags, flammable substances or debris are near any gas appliance.

If you smell gas at your residence, contact the Emmetsburg Municipal Utilities office and they will send the Gas Department to check out the problem, free of charge. After hours call the EMU on-call personnel number 712-480-2552. In an emergency call 911 and they will contact EMU personnel for you.