

## Properties of Natural Gas

**Lighter than air** – Natural gas is 40 percent lighter than air.

**Composition** – Mostly methane and small amounts of ethane.

**Hazardous Material** – Due to its flammability.

**Odorless** – Natural gas is odorless in its natural state. The smell of rotten eggs often associated with natural gas is normally due to an odorant that is added to pipelines and distribution systems.

**Combustion Products** – No significant harmful compounds result from natural gas combustion. However, incomplete combustion may produce carbon monoxide.

**Ignition Temperature** – The ignition temperature is nearly 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit. Static electricity, pilot lights, matches, and sparks from telephones, electric motors and internal combustion engines can easily reach this temperature.

**Asphyxiant** – Natural gas can displace oxygen in an enclosed space, resulting in the potential for suffocation.

**Non-Toxic** – No toxic poisonous ingredients that can be absorbed into the blood when inhaled.

## Our Commitment to Safety

Safety is the natural gas industry's top priority. The industry spends more than \$6 billion each year to maintain the gas distribution system's excellent safety record. Eversource maintains more than 6,500 miles of gas pipe in Connecticut and Massachusetts. We are committed to delivering natural gas safely, reliably and efficiently every day for use by residential, commercial and industrial customers.

Eversource invests millions of dollars each year to maintain the safety and integrity of its natural gas mains and services throughout its service territories.

We will continue to work closely with the industry and government to invest in programs that allow for the safe and secure delivery of natural gas.

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**CT Gas Leak Emergency: 877-944-5325 or 9-1-1**

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# NATURAL GAS SAFETY



**EVERSOURCE**



## Recognizing a Gas Leak

A gas leak is often recognized by smell, sight or sound.

**SMELL** – Natural gas is colorless and odorless. A distinctive, pungent odor, similar to rotten eggs, is added so that you'll recognize it quickly.

**SIGHT** – You may see a white cloud, mist, fog, bubbles in standing water or blowing dust. You may also see vegetation that appears to be dead or dying for no apparent reason.

**SOUND** – You may hear an unusual noise like roaring, hissing or whistling.

## What To Do

Gas pipeline leaks can happen. Learn to recognize them and what to do in case one occurs in your community. Keep yourself and your neighbors safe.

If you suspect a leak, leave the area immediately and go to a safe location. Dial 9-1-1 or call Eversource at 877-944-5325.

- DO NOT smoke, operate electrical switches or appliances (including both cell phones and land lines).
- DO NOT assume someone else will report the condition.
- Provide the exact location.
- Let us know if digging activities are going on in the area.



## Call 811 Before You Dig. It's the Law



The greatest risk to underground natural gas pipelines is accidental damage during excavation. Digging causes almost 60% of all accidental damage to underground natural gas pipelines. Even a hand shovel can cause enough damage, such as a gouge, dent or crease, to create a leak or line failure!

- The law requires you to call 8-1-1 two full working days before you begin digging. This is a free service.
- The utility operator of the underground facilities in the immediate area will be contacted so the location of underground equipment can be marked prior to excavation.
- Once the marks are made, pay attention and dig with care.

## Heating Season Safety Tips

With the winter heating season upon us, Eversource offers heating safety tips to help our customers and their families stay safe – and warm – all winter long.

- Clean or replace filters in your furnace periodically.
- Keep the area around your furnace or space heater clear of dirt, clutter, flammable materials and obstructions.
- Inspect all gas heating equipment in your home or business yearly – a qualified technician should make this inspection.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors and replace the batteries at least once a year.

## Keep Natural Gas Meters Clear of Snow and Ice

During the winter months, snow and ice can damage your natural gas meter. Follow these tips to stay safe all winter long.

- Gently brush away any snow or ice that accumulates around the meter, regulator vent and any other outdoor piping.
- Clear the snow or ice using a broom or by hand – not with a shovel.
- When plowing, snow-blowing or shoveling, do not push or pile snow around your meter or appliance vents.
- Clear a path to your meter so Eversource employees and emergency responders can access it in an emergency.



**PLEASE NOTE:** A clogged vent may cause your appliance to shut down or malfunction and create a hazardous situation, such as a build-up of carbon monoxide.