

What You Need To Know About Natural Gas Safety



Natural gas is one of the cleanest and most efficient forms of energy available today — and, when used properly, one of the safest.

Gas Leaks: How to Detect One, What to Do

Gas leaks can create fires and explosions. It's important that you and your family know how to recognize a gas leak and what to do if you suspect a leak.

Signs of a gas leak

Any one of these is a sign of a gas leak:

- **Smell** – A distinctive, strong odor similar to rotten eggs.
- **See** – White cloud, mist, fog, bubbles in standing water, blowing dust, or vegetation that appears to be dead or dying for no reason.
- **Hear** – Roaring, hissing, or whistling.

If you detect a gas leak...

- If the odor is strong, leave immediately and take others with you.
- If the odor is faint, open windows before leaving.
- If you are outside, leave the area immediately.
- Do not light a match or smoke, turn appliances or lights on or off (including flashlights), use a telephone, or start a car. Doing so can produce sparks that might cause the gas to explode.
- Find a phone away from the area and call 1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633).
- Do not assume someone else will report the condition.
- National Grid customers should call 1-718-643-4050.

Gas Safety in the Home

Follow these gas safety rules at home:

- It is dangerous to use a gas range or oven to heat rooms.
- Gas-fired appliances such as stoves or gas dryers that are attached to a flexible hose should only be moved by professionals. Old flexible hoses should be replaced and not reused since they become brittle over time and small cracks can leak enough gas to reach a hazardous level.
- Don't step, sit, lean, or place heavy objects on flexible hoses attached to appliances.
- Have your heating and venting system serviced regularly.
- Keep cleaners, gasoline, paints, and other combustible materials away from gas appliances.
- Don't let children play near gas appliances.
- Keep the path and area around the gas meter clear so it can be reached in case of an emergency.
- Don't enclose your gas meter. Remove snow and ice from around your gas meter.

Protect Yourself Against Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas that can cause serious illness or death if inhaled in large concentrations for even a short period of time. Every home has fuel-burning appliances that can produce CO if they are not working properly. Symptoms of CO poisoning include headaches, tightness of chest, dizziness, nausea, and fatigue.

- If you suspect CO poisoning, immediately evacuate the premises and call 911.
- Install CO detectors in your home. If you use a battery-operated or plug-in detector with battery backup, check the batteries every month and replace the batteries once a year.

- If the CO alarm sounds, but no one is showing symptoms of CO poisoning, open windows, turn off all potential CO sources, and leave. Have a qualified technician investigate the source of the CO and inspect your appliances, detector, and chimneys to make sure they are operating correctly.
- All heating systems, vents, chimneys and flues should be inspected and cleaned annually by a qualified technician.
- Be sure appliances, including portable generators, are properly adjusted and working to manufacturer's specifications and local building codes.
- Keep your furnace or boiler's air intake supply clear of obstructions. If your equipment is in a separate room, leave the door open or make sure it is louvered or has adequately sized ventilating grills.
- Never use your gas range or oven to heat your home.
- Do not use kerosene or propane auxiliary heaters indoors or in any enclosed space.
- Barbecue grills should only be used outdoors. Do not use them in an enclosed porch or garage.
- Never leave your car, lawn mower, or snow blower running in an enclosed space or in a garage or shed, even if the door is open.

Call 811 Before You Dig

seven days a week, 24 hours a day

This toll-free call will help protect you, your family,
and your neighbors.

Call Before You Dig

There are more than 4,300 miles of underground gas pipelines in our service area. The slightest scratch, scrape, dent, or gouge can result in a dangerous leak.

To protect these pipelines, you must call the local one-call center at 811 two to 10 days before you dig or excavate on public or private property. After you call, utility companies will mark the approximate location of their lines at no charge to you.



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

Line Markers

Since pipelines are underground, pipeline markers are sometimes used to show their approximate location. These markers display the name and phone number of the pipeline operator, which can be used in case of an emergency.

Private Property: What are Your Responsibilities?

Customer-Owned Service Lines

The property owner is responsible for marking the location, inspecting, and maintaining some underground pipelines, known as customer-owned service lines. For one to three family homes, the property owner is responsible beyond the first inside fitting if the meter is indoors, or the foundation wall if the meter is outdoors. For large residential and commercial buildings, the property owner's responsibility begins at the property line.

Working Together

Con Edison continuously monitors and inspects its gas system to ensure public safety. We encourage you to take an active role in helping us keep our pipelines safe. Please be alert to suspicious individuals or activities around our pipelines. If you see something suspicious, call the police.

Our Commitment to Safety

To ensure the highest level of safety, service reliability, and security, Con Edison:

- Works with emergency responders and state and local agencies to prevent and prepare for emergencies through training and periodic drills.
- Works closely with communities.
- Uses the latest security and safety technologies and methods.
- Meets or exceeds all federal, state, and local safety regulations for transporting natural gas.
- Constantly examines its system and seeks to improve it through integrity-management programs.

Want to Know More?

If you want additional safety information, visit www.conEd.com/customercentral/safetytip.asp.

The following organizations also offer safety ideas:

- National Call Before You Dig Organization, www.call811.com.
- Northeast Gas Association, www.northeastgas.org.
- American Gas Association, www.aga.org.
- National Pipeline Mapping System, www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov.
- Consumer Products Safety Commission, www.cpsc.gov.
- Underwriters Laboratory, www.ul.com.