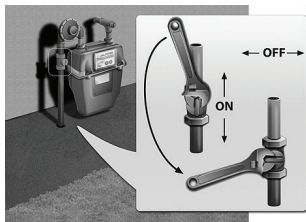


GAS LEAK

Natural gas is non-toxic, colorless, odorless, and combustible. For detection and safety, an unpleasant ingredient called “mercaptan” is added to the distribution system. 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.



- If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and get everyone out quickly. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve and call the gas company from a neighbor’s home.
- If you smell natural gas, do not attempt to locate the source of the odor. Stop all activity and leave the area immediately. Eliminate all potential sources of ignition but do not unplug anything or turn any electrical switches on or off. Once clear of the building or area, call 911. Do not re-enter the building until cleared to do so by the Prince George’s County Fire/EMS Department.
- If you hear a hissing or blowing noise; see dirt being thrown in the air; see fire coming from the ground; or see water bubbling at a pond, stream or other body of water, follow the same precautions and leave the area. Notify 911 immediately.
- Natural gas leaks and explosions are responsible for a significant number of fires following disasters. It is vital that all household members know how to shut off natural gas.
- Because there are different gas shut-off procedures for different gas meter configurations, it is important to contact your local gas company for any guidance on preparations and response regarding gas appliances and gas service to your home. Once you learn the proper shut-off procedure for your meter, share the information with everyone in your household.

(continued)

GAS LEAK | POWER OUTAGES

- If you turn off the gas for any reason, a qualified professional must turn it back on. Never attempt to turn the gas back on yourself.
- Contact your local utilities provider to request an inspection.

POWER OUTAGE

Sudden power outages can be frustrating and troublesome, especially when they last a long time. If a power outage is 2 hours or less, you do not need to be concerned about losing your perishable foods. For prolonged power outages there are steps you can take to minimize food loss and to keep all members of your household as comfortable as possible.

Before a Power Outage:

- Build or restock your emergency kit.
- Make sure you have alternative charging methods for your phone or any device that requires power.
- Charge cell phones and any battery powered devices.
- Know where the manual release lever of your electric garage door opener is located and how to operate it.
- Purchase ice or freeze water-filled plastic containers to help keep food cold during a temporary power outage.
- Keep your car's gas tank full. Gas stations rely on electricity to power their pumps. If you use your car to re-charge devices, do NOT keep the car running in a garage, partially enclosed space, or close to a home. This can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Visit Prince George's County Office of Emergency Management website to locate the closest cooling and warming centers.
- If you rely on anything that is battery-operated or power dependent like a medical device determine a back-up plan.

(continued)

During a Power Outage:

- If evacuation of the building is required, exit via stairways. Do not use elevators.
- Seek out people with disabilities and other access and functional needs and provide assistance if possible. Otherwise, notify emergency personnel of their location.
- Only use flashlights for emergency lighting. Candles can cause fires.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Most food requiring refrigeration can be kept safely in a closed refrigerator for several hours. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about 4 hours. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours.
- Take steps to remain cool if it is hot outside. If you remain at home, move to the lowest level of your home, since cool air falls. Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing, and drink plenty of water.
- Put on layers of warm clothing if it is cold outside. Never use your oven as a source of heat.
- Turn off or disconnect appliances and other equipment in case of a momentary power “surge” that can damage computers and other devices.

If utilizing portable electric generators:

- Always follow the manufacturer’s guidelines regarding appliances and extension cords.
- Make sure extension cords used with generators are rated for the load, use three-pronged plugs and are damage-free.
- Do not overload the generator.
- Do not operate the generator in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. Generators can produce high levels of deadly carbon monoxide very quickly.

(continued)

Avoid dangerous situations during outages:

- Treat every power line as if it were a “live” wire and dangerous.
- Stay away from downed wires or trees lying on wires.
- Notify 911 immediately should you observe a downed wire.
- Take precautions to keep others away until qualified personnel arrive on the scene.
- If a power line falls on a vehicle, stay away and report the incident to 911 immediately. If someone is inside the car, have the person stay there until professional help arrives.

After a Power Outage:

- Throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40°F (4°C) for 2 hours or more or that has an unusual odor, color or texture.
- If food in the freezer is colder than 40°F and has ice crystals on it, you can refreeze it.
- Contact your doctor if you’re concerned about medications having spoiled.