

NATURAL GAS INCIDENT RESPONSE FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Do's & Don'ts

For electrical or natural gas emergencies, call us at **719-448-4800**.

To learn more about emergency responder safety, visit www.csu.org/safety/emergency-responders.

We are available upon request to assist with drills and exercises to prevent and prepare for utility-related emergencies. Please contact us at naturalgasawareness@csu.org.

Follow these important guidelines when responding to a natural gas leak, fire, or explosion.

Do:

- Keep Colorado Springs Utilities (Springs Utilities) informed of any developments through your dispatcher.
- Consult with Spring Utilities representatives upon your arrival at the incident scene.
- Evacuate per the DOT Emergency Response Guide.
- Barricade or rope off the area, rerouting pedestrians and traffic if necessary.
- If there is a strong gas odor or your monitoring equipment detects natural gas nearing or exceeding concentrations of 5%, evacuate buildings and bystanders.
 - (When the volume of gas in air is at least 5%, a gas meter that reads a percentage of lower explosive limit [LEL] will read 100%.)
- Instruct those in the area and building occupants not to turn any electrical equipment on or off. This includes lights, appliances, motors, circuit breakers and any battery-powered devices.
- Check other buildings in the surrounding area for the presence of gas.
- Inspect any available openings where gas could migrate, such as manholes, drains, valve boxes, and similar spaces.
- Contact your dispatcher if the situation warrants discontinuation of electric service to a building.

Don't:

- Do **not** enter buildings unless:
 - Gas has been turned off,
 - All ignition sources have been eliminated,
 - Gas concentrations do not exceed 1% (or 20% of LEL), and
 - You are wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) and positive pressure self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).
- Do **not** try to extinguish burning gas.
- Do **not** operate any gas valves other than:
 - The aboveground shutoff valve before the service meter, or
 - Appliance supply line shutoff valves.
- Do **not** open any gas valve that has been shut off.
- Do **not** park vehicles nearby or leave engines running when a street leak is suspected.
- Do **not** park in front of buildings where a gas leak is suspected.
- Do **not** park directly over manhole covers or near storm sewer grates.
- Do **not** ventilate a structure unless:
 - Ventilation is coordinated with Springs Utilities Gas Operations,
 - Gas service has been verified as shut off,
 - All ignition sources have been eliminated, and
 - Atmospheric testing confirms gas concentrations are below 1%.