

**Subject:** Natural Gas Emergencies

**Purpose:** Establishment of a guideline to be utilized during the event of a gas leak or suspected gas leak.

**Scope:** All NPPFD personnel

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In the event of a gas leak or suspected gas leak, notify Illinois Power or applicable gas company immediately upon receipt of an incident.

Apparatus and personnel shall “stop short” or the reported incident and ascertain the exact nature of the incident.

### **Gas Escaping Outside**

- Clear the area of people and eliminate sources of ignition
- Check all buildings, manholes, and catch basins adjacent to or in the general area for gas with combustible gas indicating instruments. Ventilate and evacuate if necessary.
- Prevent escaping gas from entering the buildings by closing doors and windows.
- Keep apparatus and equipment ready in the event the escaping gas ignites.

### **Gas Burning Outside**

- Clear the area of people
- Let the gas burn; burning gas will not explode.
- Protect the combustible exposures from igniting.
- Do not assume the fire is consuming all the gas.
- Check adjacent buildings and sewers for gas.
- Gas company officials may request that apparatus and equipment be utilized to provide protection for their employees controlling and repairing gas leaks.

### **Gas Escaping Inside**

- Evacuate the building.
- Shut off gas supply at the riser or meter, or at the appliance. Notify appropriate gas company officials which valves have been shut off.
- Eliminate sources of ignition. Do not operate electrical switches.
- Ventilate by opening windows and doors.
- Determine the source of escaping gas or odor. Check to see if gas is entering building from outside at utility entrances, floor drains, or cracks in floors and foundation walls.
- Check adjacent buildings for gas.

## **Gas Burning Inside**

- Evacuate the building.
- Turn the gas off at the valve ahead of the meter to extinguish.
- If shutting the valve at the meter did not stop escaping gas, protect combustible exposures, until the gas company emergency crews can control the escaping gas.

For those incidents involving or suspected of involving other types of gases (propane, butane, etc.), strange odors or similar, refer to the Hazardous Materials Standard Operating Guideline.

By the Order of: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fire Chief

Date: \_\_\_\_\_