



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recognizing a Natural Gas Leak

SANTA BARBARA, Ca. February 16, 2016 – The Santa Barbara County Fire Department offers the following information about how to identify a natural gas leak.

There are a number of different ways to identify a potential natural gas leak.



Look

If you see:

- A damaged connection to a natural gas appliance
- Dirt, water or debris being blown into the air
- A dry patch of grass in your yard (in an otherwise moist area)
- A fire or explosion near a pipeline
- Exposed pipeline after an earthquake, fire, flood or other disaster



Listen

If you hear an unusual sound, such as a hissing, whistling or roaring, near a natural gas line or appliance.



Smell

- If you smell the distinctive odor of natural gas, often described as a sulfur-like odor.
- Note: some people may not be able to smell the odor for a number of reasons (see below).

Don't Rely on Just Your Nose

Although a distinctive odor is added to make natural gas easy to recognize, you may not be able to smell leaking gas if:

- You have a diminished sense of smell
- You're experiencing odor fatigue (normal, temporary inability to distinguish an odor after prolonged exposure to it)

- You have a physical condition such as a common cold, sinus condition or allergies
- You use tobacco, alcohol, drugs and certain medications
- The odor is masked or hidden by other odors that are present
- Pipe and soil conditions have caused odor fade

What to Do if You Suspect a Natural Gas Leak

If you smell a natural gas odor, hear the hissing sound of gas escaping or see other signs of a leak:

- IMMEDIATELY EVACUATE the area, and from a safe location either call 911 or SoCal Gas at [1-800-427-2200](tel:1-800-427-2200)
- DON'T smoke, or light a match, candle or other flame.
- DON'T turn electrical appliances or lights on or off, operate motorized equipment or vehicles, or use any device that could cause a spark.

[1-800-427-2200](tel:1-800-427-2200)

24 hours a day, seven days a week; or call 911.

Contact Information:

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