

PROCEDURE: GENERAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

DO

Notify the utility if not already done

Control sources of ignition

Position vehicles upwind if possible

Establish a safety zone

Evacuate public to a safe distance

Monitor continuously and assess situation

Be alert for odour, broken pipes, collapsed excavation

Check nearby structures for natural gas

Determine source of gas release if possible

Coordinate large scale evacuations with utility company if necessary

DO NOT

Enter an excavation or gas envelope to control escaping gas

Operate electrical devices (e.g. doorbell, cell phone, portable radio, light switch)

Attempt to stop the flow of gas from a broken pipe

Extinguish outdoor natural gas fires (unless immediate threat exists to life or property)

Enter into any fenced gas company facilities



GENERAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE



NATURAL GAS AWARENESS

PROPERTIES

Odourless, colourless, non-corrosive and non-toxic

Lighter than air (gas release/leaks dissipate quickly)

Not easily ignited - narrow flammable range (4 to 15 per cent)

When ventilating a structure with a gas concentration above the explosive limit (15 per cent), the concentration will travel back through the explosive range before dissipating

Can produce CO if incomplete combustion occurs

MIGRATION

Escaping natural gas rises upwards (influence by wind direction/air flows)

Follows path of least resistance (e.g. utility conduits, stairwells, vents, open windows)

Can travel a considerable distance underground: spread influenced by surface cover (e.g. concrete, porous soils, frost)

Can fill a building from a leak located inside or outside the building

Can collect in ceiling areas, top of stairwells, top floors, attics, etc.

NATURAL GAS AWARENESS

