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**Lancaster Ohio Office**

Office Number: 1-740-862-3300

Emergency Number: 1-800-451-9465

**Strasburg Ohio Office**

Office Number: 1-330-878-5589

Emergency Number: 1-800-451-9465

## **Natural Gas Safety Message**

### **The Friendly Flame:**

Natural gas is perfect for heating, cooking and other household uses. It is an extremely safe form of energy due to the characteristics of the gas itself. It has a very narrow flammability range since combustion will only occur between 5 to 15 percent gas in air mixture. Any percentage above or below these levels will not ignite. The ignition temperature of natural gas is also a built in safety feature. At 1100 degrees Fahrenheit, it is almost twice the ignition temperature as gasoline. Also, natural gas is lighter than air so that it dissipates rapidly making accidental ignition difficult. All of these safety features add up to making accidental ignition unlikely to occur.

### **Pipeline purpose and reliability:**

**Purpose:** To safely transport natural gas.

**Reliability:** Our natural gas pipelines are installed only by qualified professionals and tested for leakage before they become operational.

### **Awareness of hazards and prevention measures undertaken:**

**Awareness of hazards:** Damage to gas piping can cause leakage which in turn could cause a fire or an explosion.

**Prevention measures undertaken:** Natural gas companies are required by law to perform leakage tests on all jurisdictional main lines and service lines before charging them with natural gas. Periodic leak surveys are also required as a method to locate and/or repair a leak before it becomes hazardous.

### **Damage Prevention Awareness & One-Call requirements:**

#### **OUPS (Ohio Utilities Protection Service) "Call before you dig" 1-800-362-2764**

\* Always call OUPS at least 48 hours before you dig. (Gas companies will mark underground lines using yellow stakes, flags or paint).

\* Protect and preserve these approximate markings until they are no longer required for safe and proper excavation.

\* If markings are destroyed or removed before excavation is complete, the excavator must re-notify OUPS, and the gas locator will remark within 48 hours of the notice.

\* Maintain reasonable clearance between any subsurface utility and the cutting edge or point of powered equipment.

\* Marking indicates only the approximate location of buried lines. Hand dig test holes in a careful and prudent manner to determine the precise location of underground utility lines. If after hand digging you are still unable to determine the exact line location, call OUPS or the utility company for assistance prior to any excavation.

## Leak recognition and response:

Remember the three ways to recognize a gas leak:

SMELL — To help you SMELL a leak from a gas line or appliance, a familiar odor like rotten eggs is often added to natural gas.

SEE — Near a gas leak, you might SEE blowing dirt, bubbling water or an unusual area of dead vegetation.

HEAR — A leaking pipeline might make a hissing sound you can HEAR.

- If you recognize even one of the above signs, walk away, right away. Don't try to stop or repair the leak yourself or use anything that might create a spark, such as a cell phone. Avoid using potential ignition sources, such as telephones, doorbells, electric switches or motor vehicles. Call Northeast Ohio Natural Gas from an outside telephone at the above listed numbers. Call the local fire department or 911. Never try to extinguish a gas fire or operate any pipeline valves.

- Include emergency contact information for your natural gas company on your list of important phone numbers (e.g. fire, police, physicians, etc.).

For additional natural gas safety information visit [www.safegasohio.org](http://www.safegasohio.org)

For additional pipeline location information or any other additional information call **1-800-848-5589**.

For a list of pipeline operators in your area go to [www.npms.rspa.dot.gov](http://www.npms.rspa.dot.gov)