

Checklist:

What To Do When A Gas Leak Is Known Or Suspected

There are many things a first responder must remember at a natural gas emergency. This checklist will help you when the presence of gas is known or suspected.

- Evacuate. Protection of life is the first priority. Get occupants out of and away from the building. Keep people from re-entering the building or area.
- Shut off the gas supply at the service valve by the gas meter if possible.
- Call the gas utility.
- Leave windows and doors open as you leave the building to ventilate the area. However, never spend time in a building full of gas opening windows.
- Quench fire in or prevent ignition of nearby combustible material by using water.
- Clear a safe area, barricade and stand by until gas utility personnel have brought the gas flow under control.
- When escaping gas is burning, make no effort to extinguish the flame with extinguishers or water.
- Use spark-proof flashlights and/or lanterns and intrinsically safe blowers.
- Eliminate sources of ignition: Do not use doorbells or turn electrical devices on or off. No open flames or running vehicles.
- Never** open a closed gas valve. Call the gas utility.
- Never** cut off a padlock on any gas utility facilities.

Remember these tips and take a second for safety to protect the public and the first responders on scene. Protecting property is secondary, but also an important consideration. Call Minnesota Energy Resources in any emergency involving our equipment, at **800-889-4970**.

