



P.O. Box 19003  
Green Bay, WI 54307-9003  
Phone: 800-450-7260  
Website: [uppermichiganenergy.com](http://uppermichiganenergy.com)

Every day, millions of people rely on natural gas to heat homes and prepare meals. This safe, reliable energy source is delivered to our customers by a network of underground pipelines. We are committed to operating safe natural gas pipelines that meet local, state and federal regulations. Our integrity management programs provide a process for inspecting, assessing and maintaining natural gas pipelines, based on industry best practices. Natural gas and the pipelines that carry it have exceptional safety records. However, when not used properly or when it is uncontrolled, natural gas can be dangerous.

### BASIC NATURAL GAS PROPERTIES

Natural gas is an odorless, colorless, tasteless, nontoxic gas. It will not burn by itself, but if mixed with the right amount of air, natural gas can ignite. Natural gas is a simple asphyxiate – in an enclosed area, it may displace oxygen in the air, which can lead to suffocation. Transmission pipelines carry un-odorized natural gas. When natural gas passes through our gate stations, we add mercaptan, a rotten-egg-like odorant, to help detect leaks.

### SIGNS OF A NATURAL GAS LEAK

Use your eyes, ears and nose, and call us if you:

- Smell an odor like rotten eggs.
- Hear an unusual hissing, whistling or roaring sound.
- See water bubbling in a puddle, river, pond or creek.
- See dirt or debris blowing into the air.
- See unexplained dead or dying grass or other vegetation near pipeline.

### PIPELINE LOCATIONS

It's important to know the location of pipelines in your community. Look for pipeline markers – often placed at public road crossings, fence lines and street intersections to indicate the presence

of pipelines. Color, format and design of markers may vary, but all provide the pipeline contents, operator name and emergency phone number. The National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) also can provide the names of pipeline operators in your area. (Visit <https://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov> to access this information). Pipeline markers are not commonly used in residential areas - look for the presence of natural gas meters on or near houses or buildings - if you see these metering devices, buried natural gas lines are nearby.

### TRAIN DERAILMENT

Train derailment and/or heavy equipment used to mitigate a train derailment have been known to cause pipeline failure. In the event of train derailment, call 811 "Call Before You Dig" to determine if there is a pipeline in the vicinity of the accident, as well as the location and depth of the pipeline. Then contact the pipeline operator to inspect the facilities.

### BE PREPARED

Incorporating a response procedure for a natural gas pipeline incident in your emergency preparedness plan can help prevent a serious incident. Remember to include We Energies in disaster drills. Together, we can protect communities in the event of a natural gas incident. Contact us at 800-450-7260 to arrange for drill coordination.

### RESPONDING TO NATURAL GAS EMERGENCIES

Follow these steps when responding to a possible natural gas leak or emergency:

- Call us immediately at **800-450-7280**.
- If available, use instruments to verify and locate natural gas presence.
  - » If instruments are not available and you can smell natural gas, assume an ignitable mixture is present.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT: 800-450-7280

<b>PRODUCTS/DOT GUIDEBOOK ID#/GUIDE#:</b>		
Natural Gas	1971	128

### MICHIGAN COUNTIES OF OPERATION:

Menominee

*Changes may occur. Contact the operator to discuss their pipeline systems and areas of operation.*

- Establish a safety zone, keeping the wind at your back.
  - » Evacuate the public to a safe distance.
  - » Keep everyone out of areas where natural gas may have accumulated.
- Eliminate ignition sources.
  - » Do not smoke, ring doorbells or touch anything that might create a spark, such as electric light switches or cell phones.
  - » Turn off engines or other power equipment. Any emergency equipment that must be kept running should be moved a safe distance away.
- Ventilate the area if it can be done safely.

### ALSO KEEP THESE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN MIND:

- If safe to do so, attempt to stop the flow of natural gas by closing the service meter valve.
  - » Underground valves and valves inside regulator stations or fenced areas at gate stations should only be operated by utility employees. Improper operation of these valves can cause dangerous problems elsewhere in the system.

- Do not enter an enclosed area, such as an excavation, sewer, vault or pit, where natural gas is blowing.
  - » Natural gas may displace oxygen in these areas making it difficult to breathe.
  - » Static electricity may accumulate on plastic pipe, creating an ignition hazard.
- If natural gas is escaping outside, keep water out of excavations where gas is blowing.
- Check nearby buildings and structures for migrating natural gas – but do not ring doorbells as they are potential ignition sources.
- Never open a natural gas valve that has been closed as this could create a hazardous situation. Contact utility personnel to check for potential problems on the system before re-establishing service.

#### **IF RESPONDING TO A NATURAL GAS FIRE:**

- Let the fire burn unless life is in danger.
  - » Extinguishing the fire before the natural gas is shut off may result in an explosion if the accumulating natural gas is ignited.
- For structure fires, shut off natural gas supply only if you can safely access the meter. Once gas is off, remain alert for gas migration and possible reignition.

- Do not use water to suppress a natural gas fire, as it is ineffective. However, a fog spray can be used to cool. Consult utility personnel and the incident commander for instructions on how to proceed.

#### **REPORTING A NATURAL GAS EMERGENCY ON OUR SYSTEM**

1. Call us immediately at **800-450-7280**.
2. Provide specific details about the situation:
  - Address or intersection closest to the emergency
  - Nature of emergency: building fire, natural gas odors, natural gas leaking or blowing, etc.
  - Assistance required
3. Provide contact information for your on-site personnel and location of incident command post.

We will dispatch our closest utility first responder who may be able to perform natural gas emergency response duties. Additional natural gas personnel will be dispatched to the scene to support first responders as needed. Response time is based on:

- Time of day
- Personnel on duty
- Other emergencies in area
- Travel time
- Weather (storms or other emergencies may extend our response time)

If you call for assistance with a carbon monoxide investigation, someone from your department must remain on site until we arrive.

#### **FREE ONLINE TRAINING AVAILABLE**

In partnership with Callan and Associates, offers free online emergency first responder training. The Responding to Utility Emergencies (RTUE) program covers the dangers that first responders must recognize and handle to achieve better outcomes and to save more lives. RTUE online incorporates interactive media to engage firefighters, police officers and other emergency personnel.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:**

[www.we-energies.com/firstresponders](http://www.we-energies.com/firstresponders)



PO Box 2046  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-2046  
Phone: 800-242-9137  
Website: we-energies.com

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### EMERGENCY CONTACT: 800-261-5325

PRODUCTS/DOT GUIDEBOOK ID#/GUIDE#:		
Natural Gas	1971	128

### MICHIGAN COUNTIES OF OPERATION:

Dickinson                      Iron

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- Establish a safety zone, keeping the wind at your back.
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