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NATURAL GAS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Natural gas is a safe, reliable and affordable energy choice, but it should be handled properly and with care. This is why it's important for you to be educated about the properties of natural gas and of the potential hazards if natural gas is released through damaged or leaking pipelines: .

PROPERTIES OF NATURAL GAS

- Natural gas is **Colorless**
- Natural gas is **Odorless**
 For safety purposes, a compound called mercaptan is added to natural gas to give it the rotten egg smell to make it easily recognizable.
- Natural gas is **Nontoxic**
 Natural gas is not toxic, however it will displace oxygen. In a confined environment natural gas could significantly reduce the amount of oxygen in the air and create a dangerous environment.
- Natural gas is **Flammable**
 Natural gas will ignite with the proper mixture of air and an ignition source.



HOW TO RECOGNIZE A NATURAL GAS LEAK

A natural gas leak can impact you, even if you don't have natural gas service at your home or business. It's possible for natural gas to migrate into neighboring buildings, including those without natural gas service. Natural gas leaks can be handled quickly and easily if you know what to look for and what to do if you find one. Here's how you can identify a natural gas leak:

SMELL

- Natural gas smells like rotten eggs

LOOK

- Natural gas leaks often cause bubbling water, blowing dirt or dead plants. You may also see sink holes and/or exposed pipe

LISTEN

- Natural gas leaks often cause a hissing sound near a natural gas line or meter

IF YOU SMELL NATURAL GAS OR SUSPECT A LEAK:

- Leave the area immediately
- After leaving the area, call the City of Vicksburg Gas Department at 601-636-1096 or call 911
- Call from a neighbor's house or from another location far from the smell of natural gas
- **DO NOT** use anything electrical that may create a spark; this includes cell phones
- **DO NOT** operate any light switches
- **DO NOT** light a match
- **DO NOT** attempt to locate the source of a leak
- **DO NOT** attempt to stop a leak
- **DO NOT** return to the area until Vicksburg Natural Gas or the emergency services have declared the area safe
- **DO NOT** attempt to operate pipeline valves yourself. You may inadvertently cause more danger or additional damage
- **DO NOT** attempt to extinguish a natural gas fire

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

1-601-636-1096

PRODUCTS/DOT GUIDEBOOK ID#/GUIDE#:

Natural Gas 1971 115

MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES OF OPERATION:

Warren

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

CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG



**Know what's below.
 Call before you dig.**

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT

Prior to performing any digging of any sort, you are required by law to notify your local one-call utility notification center 48 hours prior to digging.

The City of Vicksburg Natural Gas will then mark the gas facilities. These marks are valid for 10 days.

Before you can safely cross or work in close proximity to an underground utility, you must first verify its depth. Flags and locator marks tell you the direction the utility is running, but not how deep it is buried. Use proper hand digging tools and techniques to safely verify the depth of any buried utilities in close proximity to your planned excavation. The only way to be sure of utility depth is to physically expose it.



If you smell natural gas or suspect a leak, call the City of Vicksburg Natural Gas at **601-636-1096** and emergency **911!** Technicians are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week to investigate potential gas leaks.

LOOK FOR SIGNS OF UNDERGROUND PIPELINES

Natural gas pipelines are often identified by markers placed at intervals along pipeline rights of way. Markers warn that a pipeline is located in the area, identify the product transported in the line and provide the name of the pipeline operator and a telephone number to call in the event of an emergency.

While the markers are very helpful to indicate the presence of pipelines in the area, they don't show the exact location,

depth or how many pipelines are in the right of way. Also, be aware that pipelines may not follow a straight line between markers. Please keep in mind that not all pipelines are marked. The



absence of a pipeline marker does not mean that an underground pipeline may not be present.

Reminder:

Do not operate gas valves under any circumstance. These valves are only to be used by trained & qualified City of Vicksburg Natural Gas Employees.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.
911 or 800.227.6477**