

Natural Gas Safety

The Facts About Natural Gas

Despite the safe nature of natural gas and the diligence of gas companies, emergencies do arise. To deal properly with emergency situations involving escaping natural gas, some basic facts about this energy should be known:

- ***Natural Gas is Not Toxic*** Natural gas is non toxic; however, if natural gas replaces the air in an enclosed space, suffocation can occur because of the lack of oxygen.

- ***Natural Gas is Lighter Than Air*** Natural gas is lighter than air, therefore it will rise and diffuse rapidly when it escapes in an open area. When confined in a closed room, the gas will rise to ceiling level. The air in a room will be displaced from the top downward.

- ***Natural Gas is Odorless*** Natural gas is odorless in its natural state; therefore, an odorant is usually added to give it a distinctive odor.

- ***Limit of Flammability is 4% to 16%*** There must be a proper mixture of gas-in-air of approximately 4% to 16% and an ignition source with a temperature between 1100 and 1200 degrees Fahrenheit for gas to ignite.