

Natural Gas Safety Tips and Quiz

Your safety is our top concern



Clean burning natural gas is odorless, colorless and non-toxic in its natural state. Puget Sound Energy adds a distinctive odor called mercaptan to natural gas so even the smallest leak can be detected.

If you smell natural gas

- Leave the area immediately.
- Do not use phones (cell or land line phones). Do not turn any electric switches on/off or use other electrically operated devices that could cause a spark.
- Do not smoke. Do not light a match or use a lighter or do anything that might create a spark.
- Use a telephone outside the area and call PSE, 24 hours a day, at 1-888-225-5773 or 911.

Using your nose is not the only way to detect a natural gas leak. Blowing dirt, bubbles rising in a puddle or a hissing sound may indicate a leak. If you notice any signs of a natural gas leak, call PSE immediately.

Natural gas safety features

Natural gas is lighter than air. If it escapes into the air it dissipates quickly.

Natural gas has a very narrow range of flammability and will ignite only in a concentration of 4 to 15 percent gas in air.

A natural gas pipeline may be identified with a marker

PSE, like other pipeline operators, installs above ground pipeline markers to indicate that a buried natural gas pipeline is in the area. These are generally situated along highways and major road and railway intersections. These line markers display the name of the pipeline operator and the telephone number where the operator can be reached in case of an emergency. Pipeline markers and warning signs indicate only the presence of a pipeline. They must not be used to determine the exact location of the pipeline.



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Call 811 before you dig

Whether you're a homeowner or contractor, contact the 811 "Call Before You Dig" hotline two business days before digging. The "Call Before You Dig" law* requires anyone digging into the ground to call and have underground utilities located to avoid potential hazards with striking or digging up utility lines.

If you think you may have damaged a natural gas pipe or smell the odor of natural gas, follow these important steps:

- Quickly move a safe distance from the damaged line.
- Call 911 after you're at a safe distance.
- Report the damage to PSE at 1-888-225-5773.

Customer-owned buried natural gas piping

PSE regularly inspects the underground natural gas pipelines in the street and to your meter to make sure they are operating properly and safely. If you own buried piping, such as piping to pools, hot tubs, natural gas barbecues or detached buildings, it is your responsibility to maintain the piping unless PSE installed and agreed to maintain it. If your piping is not maintained, it may leak or corrode. Have a licensed plumbing contractor do the inspection and any necessary repairs.

* See RCW 19.122 on <http://www.leg.wa.gov>.



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

Natural Gas Safety Quiz - [log on to PSE.com/NGSurvey](http://www.pse.com/NGSurvey)

1. **Which of the following signs may indicate a natural gas leak?**
 - a. A rotten egg or sulfur odor
 - b. A hissing sound
 - c. Bubbles appearing in outdoor puddles
 - d. All of the above
 - e. Don't know
2. **If you suspect or detect a possible natural gas leak, what should you do? Circle all that apply.**
 - a. Leave the area on foot
 - b. Call 911 from a safe distance
 - c. Avoid turning on/off switches
 - d. Call PSE
 - e. Attempt to find the leak
 - f. Don't know
3. **How does natural gas get to your home?**
 - a. Underground pipelines
 - b. Delivered by truck
 - c. Don't know
4. **If you are planning to dig, what do you need to do before you start?**
 - a. Call PSE
 - b. Call 811
 - c. Do Nothing
 - d. Don't Know

Answers: 1) d; 2) a-d; 3) a; 4) b