

Nipissing University - Emergency Response Procedures

NATURAL GAS LEAK

A strong odorant (such as ethyl mercaptan) is deliberately added to the otherwise colorless and odorless natural gas so that leaks can be easily detected by smell before an explosion occurs.

NATURAL GAS EMERGENCY – a situation where all of the following conditions are present:

- The natural gas odor is persistent, i.e., continues to be detected via sense of smell as you walk from the area;
- The odor continues to be substantial, i.e., does not decrease as you continue to walk; and
- The source of the odor cannot be readily identified.

If you smell gas and suspect a leak:

1. Cease all operations immediately and **DO NOT** operate any electrical devices (phones, electrical switches, electrical machines etc.).
2. **IF SMELL IS STRONG REMOVE** self from area and call 911, if smell is minor **REMOVE** self from area and call Security Services: x5505 or 498-7244 (24 hours).
3. **DO NOT CALL FROM AFFECTED AREA, OR TURN ELECTRIC SWITCHES ON OR OFF** (lights, phones or any other electrical equipment can create a source of ignition with enough energy to ignite fumes).
4. If gas smell is on the inside and windows can be easily opened, open to ventilate the area.
5. **EVACUATE** the building by the nearest exit. Notify other building occupants in the affected area to do so as well. If any person for whatever reason cannot safely evacuate the building, assist them to an area of refuge such as a stairwell away from the emergency area. Alert security and/or emergency response personnel of their location.
6. **DO NOT USE ELEVATORS.**
7. Once outside, move away from the building at least 200 feet. Keep driveways and sidewalks clear for emergency crews.
8. **DO NOT RETURN TO AN EVACUATED BUILDING** unless authorized to do so by Security Services, External Emergency Services or an announcement from the University.