
What is Natural Gas?

Natural gas is a nontoxic, colorless fuel, about one third lighter than air and has no smell in its natural state. Natural gas has a limited flammability range and a high ignition point. When mixed with air in the right proportion and ignited by a spark or flame, natural gas will burn or explode. Before natural gas enters the Morehead State University Gas distribution system an odorant is added to make natural gas detectable to the sense of smell.

How is Natural Gas Transported?

Morehead State University distributes natural gas in both coated steel and plastic pipelines. Plastic natural gas lines will have a coated copper wire running parallel to the natural gas line. This wire is for locating purposes. **Notify Morehead State University anytime the pipe, pipe coating or locating wire is damaged at 606 783-2147.**

Where are Natural Gas Pipelines Located?

Most distribution natural gas lines are not marked, except for temporary markings after someone contacts the university. Pipeline markers indicate the approximate location of the high pressure pipelines and some larger Intermediate High-Pressure lines in rural locations. Pipeline markers bear the company name and emergency telephone number. Distribution natural gas mains are buried underground with service laterals installed for industrial, commercial and residential customers.

How Safe is Natural Gas?

Natural gas has an excellent safety record and gas emergencies are not common. However, Morehead State University believes people should know how to recognize and respond to a natural gas emergency if one should occur and has prepared this brochure to assist them.

Call Before You Dig

Before excavating, grading roads, seismic work or other construction, always have our gas lines located. A locating representative will come and locate the gas line for you

High Pressure Right-of-Way Precautions

1. Do not make unauthorized use of a right-of-way or drive heavy loads across a buried line (except at roads) without consulting Morehead State University.
2. Always call before you dig and abide by all location markings and instructions provided by company representatives.
3. While excavating, carefully hand dig until gas line is exposed. Do not use power equipment near a gas line.
4. When backfilling, provide proper support for gas lines and ensure adequate soil cover on top. Use suitable rock-free material to avoid damage to the pipe or pipe coating.

Know the “Rotten Egg” Odor of Natural Gas

Natural gas is colorless and has no smell in its natural state. A harmless odorant-mercaptan-is added to create a distinct scent, so that it is easy to detect even the smallest natural gas leak.

Gas Escaping from Broken/ Leaking Line

1. Turn off machinery and prevent other sources of ignition such as open flames, vehicle engines and the operation of electrical switches or cellular phones.
2. Evacuate everyone from the endangered area and prevent vehicles and bystanders from entering the area.
3. Do not attempt to make any repairs or operate natural gas valves unless instructed to do so by Winchester Housing Authority Gas personnel.
- 4. From a safe place call Morehead State University at 606 783-2147 immediately. Also call 911 to notify the nearest fire department and law enforcement agency for assistance.**

Escaping Gas Catches Fire

1. Evacuate the area and prevent others from entering.

2. Do not attempt to put out flames. Putting out a gas fire without stopping the supply of gas could cause a more serious danger.

3. **From a safe place call Morehead State University at 606-783-5277 immediately. Also, call 911 to notify the nearest fire department and law enforcement agency for assistance.**

2. Do not chain bikes, trash cans, lawn mowers, etc. to the gas meters

3. Periodically check to ensure the meter is free from snow, or other falling objects.

If a Line is Pulled, Jarred, or if Coating or Locating Wire is Damaged

1. Stop all work and check for the sound and other signs of escaping gas in the area.

2. **From a safe place call Morehead State University at 606 783-2147**

3. Do not attempt repairs or backfill until Morehead State University has repaired any damage. Unrepaired damage to a gas line or coating will eventually cause a failure to occur. Unrepaired damage to a locating wire will cause difficulty in properly locating a plastic gas line in the future.

Protecting Gas Meters

1. Do not store anything on or within a couple of feet of the gas meter.

Morehead State University

Natural Gas

Awareness

Program