

Orchard Farm Fire Protection District Standard Operating Procedure

Division: 200 Emergency Operations
Section: 202 Fire & Rescue
Subject: 202.15 Natural Gas Emergencies



Supersedes: N/A

Approved By: 

Date: 05/22/2013

Date Last Reviewed: N/A

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PURPOSE:

To define the District's response to natural gas emergencies

RESPONSIBILITY:

All District Personnel

PROCEDURES:

Natural gas is colorless and odorless. The gas company adds an odorant so personnel can smell the gas in the event of a leak. Natural gas is lighter than air and will rise if escaping pressure. The flammable limits of natural gas are 4% to 14%.

All firefighters must be in full personnel protective equipment including SCBA's. All responding apparatus will approach the area with caution. If possible, the apparatus should be positioned a minimum of 50' from the involved structure. Electricity should never be turned on or off in a structure with a gas leak; have power turned off at a remote area by Ameren CIPS - Electric division if necessary.

In the event of a flood and a gas line is severed below the water line; contact Ameren CIPS – gas division immediately. Give the call taker detailed information and request a duty supervisor. Contact BURT Underwater Recovery Team and request their immediate assistance. Give the call taker detailed information. Investigate the situation by dispatching 8859. Standby to direct Ameren CIPS and BURT personnel to the scene as necessary.

Escaping Gas Outside of a Structure

Eliminate ignition sources. Restrict access to the area. Determine if the leak can be isolated and, if possible, isolate. Call Ameren CIPS

Escaping Gas Inside of a Structure

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Eliminate ignition sources. Restrict access to the area. Shut off the gas flow at the main gas valve outside the structure or to the affected area of the structure i.e. stove, boiler, water heater, etc. Natural ventilation is to be setup. A 1 ¾ safety line shall be in place.

Check structure for gas levels by using a meter after the main valve has been shut down. Call Ameren CIPS

Burning Gas Outside of a Structure

Protect exposures and recognize the high radiant heat hazards. If possible, attempt to secure the natural gas leak by utilizing a main shut off. Call Ameren CIPS

Burning Gas Inside of a Structure

Shut off the flow of gas at the main shut off valve outside the structure. Protect the exposures. Extinguish the remaining fire. Call Ameren CIPS. Once the scene has been secured, the Officer in charge of the scene will notify the residents or occupants of the status of the structure and affected areas.