

Louisiana State University Natural Gas System Public Awareness Information

Pipeline Purpose and Reliability

The Office of Facility Services of Louisiana State University operates a “Master Meter” distribution system for natural gas. The underground system, consisting of over 20 miles of steel and polyethylene pipe, safely and reliably provides natural gas to the campus community for the generation of electricity and steam, heating water, cooking, and climate control.

Awareness of Hazards

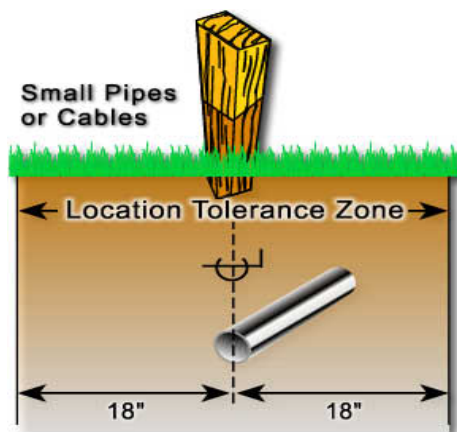
Natural gas is odorless and tasteless. By itself natural gas is not toxic or poisonous. However, natural gas does not support life. It can be suffocating if it replaces air in a building or room.

Natural gas burns when mixed with air in the presence of an ignition source. This is the main reason for its value. However, its combustibility is also the element that makes it dangerous. Natural gas is lighter than air. In the open, gas rises into the air. In a closed area it will rise to the highest level and accumulate. An odorant is added to give natural gas a recognizable smell. The smell aids in leak detection and helps people to notice leaking gas before it builds up to dangerous levels.

Safety, our number one priority, is achieved through adherence to federal and state guidelines that include:

- Personnel Training
- Regular scheduled leak detection surveys
- Maintenance of corrosion control systems

Damage Prevention Awareness



One of the common reasons for gas leaks is damage to the pipe from digging. It is the public's responsibility to help prevent damage to natural gas pipes. LSU is a participating member in the Louisiana One Call System. The law requires all individuals to submit a Utility Locate Request Form from the Office of Facility Services and obtain approval before engaging in any activity (as stated in the By-Laws of the Louisiana One Call System, Inc.) that will affect underground utilities.

The form must be submitted at least three (3) days prior to any excavation activity in all facilities, including but not limited to, the Main Campus, the School of Veterinary Medicine, the Fire & Emergency Training Institute, the Ben Hur Agriculture areas, the St. Gabriel Agriculture areas, and the LSU Arboretum. Approval of a LSU Utility Locate Request does not cover non-LSU utilities in the locations that other utility agencies have lines. In this event, you must also call Louisiana One Call (811 or 800.272.3020). After location and marking of all of the underground utilities in the area, a request will be approved. The location of any gas lines, if present, along with any other underground utilities will be identified above ground. The above ground markings are a caution to whoever is digging that underground utilities exist in the area below. Newer polyethylene (plastic) gas lines are yellow to aid in identification.

Leak Recognition and Response

A gas leak is usually recognized by sight, sound, or smell:



- **SIGHT**

Look for dirt being blown into the air, mist, fog, bubbling in standing water, fire coming from the ground, or dead or dying vegetation.



- **SOUND**

Listen for any unusual noise, such as roaring, blowing, hissing, or whistling.



- **SMELL**

Natural gas is odorized to give it a distinct smell (rotten eggs).

If you ever SEE, HEAR, or SMELL GAS on Campus, take these precautions promptly:

In the event of a gas leak inside a building:

- ✓ **DO NOT** turn on or off any lights or appliances.
- ✓ **DO NOT** use a landline phone or cell phone inside the affected area
- ✓ **DO NOT** light matches
- ✓ **IMMEDIATELY** extinguish any cigarettes or open flames
- ✓ **DO** leave the building and call the Office of Facility Services' Work Control (578.3186) or University Police (578.3000).

In the event of a gas leak outside:

- ✓ **DO NOT** approach the area
- ✓ **DO** call the Office of Facility Services' Work Control (578.3186) or University Police (578.3000).

Additional Information

Office of Facility Services

Phone: 225.578.3186

LSU Safety Page <https://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/ehs/>

Other Natural Gas/Pipeline Links:

Louisiana One Call

<http://www.laonecall.com/>

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, US Department of Transportation

www.phmsa.dot.gov

Office of Pipeline Safety

www.ops.dot.gov

American Gas Association

www.aga.org

American Petroleum Institute

www.api.org