

# Natural gas safety for schools

**Smell gas? Move fast.** Natural gas is extremely flammable. Though rare, gas leaks can produce fires and explosions. If you suspect a gas leak, make everyone leave the area immediately. When you're in a safe place, call 911 first and then Alliant Energy at 1-800-ALLIANT (800-255-4268).

## Signs of a natural gas leak



**SEE:** Dead or dying vegetation where the surrounding area is green; blowing dirt; bubbling water in a puddle, river, pond or creek; fire or explosion near a natural gas pipeline.



**HEAR:** Unusual hissing, whistling or roaring near natural gas appliances or pipelines.



**SMELL:** A rotten egg or skunk-like odor.

## Suspect a leak? Here's what to do.

- Immediately notify school officials – even if the leak seems to be outside of the building.
- Evacuate the building.
  - Provide evacuation instructions via word of mouth – do not use cell phones or PA system.
  - Do not create an ignition source. (For example: Do not start a vehicle or operate electronics.)
- Move to a safe location upwind of the odor or leak.
- From a safe distance, first call 911, then Alliant Energy at 1-800-ALLIANT (800-255-4268).

## What not to do:

- Do not investigate the situation.
- Do not attempt to repair or stop a leak. (No turning valves, etc.)
- Do not touch escaping natural gas.
- Do not operate vehicles or motorized equipment.
- Do not walk or drive into a leak or vapor cloud.
- Do not try to extinguish a burning natural gas pipeline fire.

(Continued on back)

# Natural gas safety for schools (cont.)

## Proactive safety practices

- Identify where pipelines and utilities are located on or near school property, including facilities like athletic fields.
- Keep in mind that natural gas may travel above or below ground to an ignition source – causing fires, explosions, injury or death.
- Include natural gas pipeline-related emergencies in your emergency preparedness planning.
- Conduct emergency drills involving natural gas pipelines – invite local law enforcement, emergency responders and Alliant Energy to participate.
- Report suspicious or unusual activities along the natural gas pipeline to law enforcement.

## Safe digging

- Contact 811 before you excavate, dig or move or remove dirt. It's the law.
- 811 will send locators to the property to mark buried hazards like electric and natural gas lines.
- Wait to dig until all utilities are marked.
- Dial 811 or visit [call811.com](http://call811.com) to start the process or learn state-specific laws.

## Want more info?

We're here for you!

Contact Lisa Howard at Alliant Energy at (319) 786-7101 or [lisahoward@alliantenergy.com](mailto:lisahoward@alliantenergy.com).

[alliantenergy.com/safeschools](http://alliantenergy.com/safeschools)