

# Public Education Sample Only

## **HOW CAN YOU PREVENT GAS EMERGENCIES?**

1. Keep all appliances cleaned, properly vented, and serviced regularly.
2. Make sure everyone in your family knows how to operate gas appliances and shut-off valves.
3. Do not use an open gas oven for heating your home or drying clothes.
4. Do not use or store gasoline, aerosols, or other products with flammable vapors near gas appliances.
5. Whenever changing your furnace filter be sure to replace the compartment door.
6. Never cover fresh air vents that supply air to your gas appliances.
7. Have all gas line alterations and appliance repairs performed by a professional.
8. Before digging in your yard, be sure you know the location of underground gas lines. Call your local One Call Center.
9. Write your fire and police department phone numbers and our emergency service number in the front of your phone book.

**ANYTIME YOU SUSPECT A GAS LEAK OR GAS EMERGENCY CALL YOUR LOCAL GAS COMPANY. THEY ARE EXPERTS AT THEIR JOB AND RESPOND TO EMERGENCY CALLS.**

## **WHAT IS NATURAL GAS?**

Natural gas is a non-toxic, colorless fuel, about one-third lighter than air. Gas burns, but only when mixed with air in the right proportion and ignited by spark or flame. In its purified state, gas has no smell. For your protection, the gas company adds a harmless, distinctive odor so you can detect and report the slightest gas leak.

## **HOW SAFE IS NATURAL GAS?**

Natural gas has an excellent safety record, but like other forms of energy, it requires a certain amount of caution. Gas emergencies are rare, but they can happen:

- Whenever gas leaks from a pipe or pipe fitting, there is a possibility of fire or explosion.
- If leaking gas accumulates in a confined space, it can displace air and cause suffocation.
- If a gas appliance is not working properly, incomplete combustion can produce carbon monoxide and other toxic gases.
- A pilot light or gas burner can ignite combustible materials and flammable vapors, such as gasoline, paint thinner or aerosols.