



OMU SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023 VOL. 59 ISSUE NO. 4

OWNED BY THE PEOPLE IT SERVES

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT A GAS LEAK

STOP

Do you smell rotten eggs or suspect a gas leak? Do not light a match, smoke, start your car, flip a light switch or touch appliances and electronics. This includes your phone.

LEAVE

Leave immediately and take others with you.

If the leak is outside, leave the area quickly.

CALL

Find a phone away from the area to call OMU at 641-832-3731 or call 911.

THIS ISSUE

NATURAL GAS SCRATCH AND SNIFFS ARE INCLUDED

HOW TO DETECT A PIPELINE LEAK

While rare, gas leaks can result in fires and explosions, so it is very important to know how to recognize a gas leak and what to do if one is suspected.

- 1. SIGHT** - Natural gas is colorless and nearly invisible to the eye. Small leaks can be identified by looking for dying or discolored vegetation in a naturally green area. Hazardous liquids produce a strong sheen or film standing on a body of water.
- 2. SOUND** - The volume of a leak can range from a quiet hissing to a loud roar, depending on the size and nature of the leak.
- 3. SMELL** - An unusual smell, petroleum or gaseous odor will sometimes accompany a gas leak. Natural gas is colorless, tasteless and odorless unless odorants, such as Mercaptan are added. Mercaptan has a distinct smell, similar to sulfur or rotten eggs. Odorizing natural gas is an important safety feature required by all natural gas utilities.
- 4. OTHER** - Other ways to recognize a gas leak may include water bubbling up or standing in an unusual area, a mist or vapor cloud, a powerful fire explosion with dense smoke plumes, or an area of petroleum-strained ground.

