

Natural Gas Leak/Loss of Service

If there is a natural gas leak, some magnitude of Evacuation will most likely be necessary. A loss of natural gas service may last only a short time and it is usually safest for occupants to stay put.

Natural gas leaks usually cause an odor in the building and present danger for an explosion. (Natural gas is mixed with mercaptan to give it an odor). Other signs of a natural gas leak may include:

- Blowing or hissing sound
- Dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area
- Dirt or dust blowing from a hole in the ground
- Bubbling in wet or flooded areas
- Flames, if a leak has ignited

During Gas Line Break/Leak Incident:

- Call 911 and advise them of the incident
- Evacuate the school building
 - » Is there a gas leak or broken supply line within the facility?
 - » Is it safe or desirable to shut off power to the area? If so, turn off gas valve.
 - » Activate the Evacuation signal and provide verbal instructions.
 - » Call the gas company to determine extent of outage and areas affected
 - » Do not enter affected areas unless directed and keep unnecessary people away from area
 - » Try to vent the affected area if it safe to do so
 - » If the temperature outside is below freezing, water systems may need to be drained or heated by outside sources
- DO NOT:
 - » Use electrical devices such as light switches, telephones, cell phones or appliances that could cause a spark and ignite the gas.
 - » Start vehicles
 - » Re-enter the building until a qualified utility representative says it is safe
 - » Try to put out flames if the natural gas is ignited

After Incident is Over:

- Activate the “ALL CLEAR” signal and provide verbal instructions

Incident Commander	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate actions of school personnel with internal and external responders • Use available resources to assist responding agencies as required • Prepare for possible Evacuation of the school or Early Dismissal
Head Custodian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct the shutdown of utility lines or systems appropriate for the emergency • Coordinate efforts with the Maintenance Department and public utilities • Prepare to assist first responders with manpower, materials and equipment • Re-activate utilities and systems when appropriate with assistance from Director of Maintenance
School Nurse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the IC with an Early Dismissal or Evacuation procedures
School Counselor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow school protocol to support all students especially those with disabilities and emotionally vulnerable students • Determine if mental health response team is needed to support distressed students
School Resource Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the IC with an Early Dismissal or Evacuation procedures
Evacuation Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the IC with an Early Dismissal or Evacuation procedures
Reunification Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the IC with an Early Dismissal or Evacuation procedures

