



## Natural Gas Safety Training Bulletin

The SDG&E First Responder Natural Gas Outreach Program's purpose is to provide Natural Gas response information designed to ensure the safety of all emergency First Responders, our NG workers, and the communities we all serve in San Diego County.

- Law Enforcement Officers are often the first on scene of natural gas incidents but don't have personal protective equipment or combustible gas indicators to safely recognize the threat and risk potential.

### Properties and Hazards of Natural Gas

- Natural gas is odorless and colorless. An odorant is added to make it detectable by smell at very low concentrations.
- Natural gas is lighter than air, so it will rise into the atmosphere. It can migrate in the air, in soil and up from underground through pipes into homes.
- A natural gas concentration between 4.5-15% in air will ignite in the presence of an ignition source.
- Natural gas incidents are hazardous materials releases and should be treated as such.
- During a leak, the only way to know the concentration of natural gas is by monitoring the atmosphere which SDG&E natural gas workers and Fire Departments are equipped to do.
- During an incident, SDG&E's First Responder Hotline [REDACTED] can provide responders on scene with technical advice if a gas worker is not present.

### Recognition of a Natural Gas Release

- You are Informed by Dispatch from a report of a resident or contractor who damaged a gas line.
- You encounter it in the field by noticing the smell or hear the sound of a broken and blowing gas line.
- You see dead or dying vegetation (can die off from gas leaking underneath).

### Law Enforcement Roles and Responsibilities during a Natural Gas Incident

- If leaking gas has not already ignited, it is seeking an ignition source. Control ignition sources (appliances, lights, conducted electrical weapons (TASER), vehicles, LE radios, and cell phones).
- If gas is already burning, keep people out of the area and wait for Fire and SDG&E to respond. Fire will not extinguish the flames until the gas is controlled. It is safer to let it burn.
- Scene Management Tips:
  - S = Scene Safety - Recognize if you are in a NG environment and establish a safety perimeter
  - I = Isolate - Keep people, traffic, and Media from area to control ignition potential
  - N = Notify - Notify Fire and SDG&E
  - Participate in Unified Command
  - Coordinate evacuations with the fire department
  - Direct affected residents to designated evacuation center/location
  - Consult with Fire Incident Commander and SDG&E Utility Commander before using helicopter over the area in an unignited leak
- For additional information or training contact Joe Ranalli at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]