



# Chemical Spills/Gas Leaks

If your **Utility Service or Telecommunications Service** is not available, the impacts could be detrimental to your safety. Along with quality of life issues, key issues are listed in the section describing how chemical spills/gas leaks might impact your utility service.

## How it Might Impact Your Utility Service

### Telecommunications Service

- Network equipment stops working.
- Utility or on-demand service providers will not be able to connect to customers.
- Consumer electronics will stop working.
- Security systems will be compromised.

### Electric Service

- Food safety.
- Financial losses.
- Hospitals, air traffic control systems, street lights, modern sewage systems, and most forms of communication may be inoperable.

### Gas Service

- Exposure to cold weather issues
- Public health and healthcare issues

### Water Service

- Lack of irrigation for plant and food growth
- Pets and livestock
- Public health and healthcare issues
- Identify two places for your family to meet:
  - Somewhere outside your home.
  - Somewhere away from your neighborhood in case you can't return home.
- Make sure your children are aware of the routes to both locations.
- Plan safe routes away from your home and business to safe ground.
- Practice the plan with your family, including your children.
- Review the emergency plans at your workplace, your children's school or daycare center, and other places where members of your family regularly spend time away from home.
- Keep current important documents in a safe-deposit box.
- Identify any health conditions or disability-related needs of your group and include instructions.
- Decide on where you will go if an evacuation becomes necessary.
- Plan your route and include alternate options.

- Make copies of financial, insurance and medical records and keep them with your emergency plan.
- Each person will need identification and contact information to carry with them in an evacuation, especially children and older adults.
- Review and update your plan as needed -- at least yearly.
- Know the alerts and alarms in your community.

### **Pack an Emergency Kit**

- Three-day supply of bottled water (one gallon per person, per day)
- First-aid kit, handbook, and essential medications
- Packaged, dried, or canned food and any special diet items
- Special provisions for babies, elderly, disabled family members, and pets
- Non-electric can opener
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Hand crank and solar combination radio, flashlight, slight sticks, and an off-the-grid communication device, such as GoTenna
- Extra eyeglasses and sets of house and car keys
- Fire extinguisher — A-B-C type
- Rubber boots, rain poncho
- Plastic trash bags
- Spare Cell phone charger
- Sturdy pair of shoes, warm clothing and personal hygiene items
- Cash

## **DURING A GAS LEAK**

**If you. . .**

**SMELL** a distinct sulfur-like odor, similar to rotten eggs, even if it's faint or momentary;  
or

**HEAR** a hissing or roaring coming from the ground or above ground pipeline; or

**SEE** dirt or water blowing into the air, unexplained dead or dying plants or grass, or standing water continuously bubbling:

**Do**

- Open windows (if possible).
- Leave the building immediately.
- Get to a safe distance.
- Call 911 and your natural gas provider.
- Activate your emergency plan.
- Locate your emergency supply kit.
- Follow local alerts on the radio, television, internet and other warning systems.

## **Don't**

- Turn the lights or any electrical or electronic device on or off.
- Make phone calls, including your cell phone.
- Light a match, smoke, or operate appliances.
- Re-enter the building until advised by your natural gas provider.
- Operate vehicles or powered equipment until the issue is resolved.
- Stop to email or post the gas leak on social media.
- Do not use elevators; always use stairs.

## **AFTER A GAS LEAK**

- Follow instructions by emergency personnel.
- Do not return to your home or building until told to do so by emergency personnel.
- Contact emergency personnel if you still smell gas when you return to your home or building.
- Keep windows open until you no longer smell gas.
- Stay alert to emergency personnel with feedback on gas leak.

## **BEFORE A CHEMICAL SPILL**

### **Pack An Emergency Kit**

Before packing your emergency kit, use the same plan used for Gas Leaks.

Your emergency chemical spill kit should include:

- Towel
- Map
- Flashlight
- Batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Battery-operated or hand-crank radio
- Prescription Drugs
- Small Sealed Container of Water
- Non-Perishable Snacks
- Foods
- Plastic Trash Bags
- Eye Glasses
- Hearing Aid (as needed)
- Wide Tape
- Toiletries
- Other Items as needed

## **DURING A CHEMICAL SPILL**

- Leave the area and close doors to affected area
- Immediately evacuate the building via the shortest and safest exit route. If possible to accomplish within seconds, leave windows and exterior doors open to ventilate the area.
- Go to a safe area or to a pre-assigned exterior assembly area for your building.
- Call Medical Response and HAZMAT Response at 9-1-1 from the nearest phone in safe area.
- If equipped to do so,
  - Don personal protective equipment
  - Obtain spill control materials
  - Contain the spill
  - Dispose of material
- Attend to injured or contaminated person if safe to do so.
- Have person with knowledge of incident or area assist responding emergency personnel.
- Confirm no one is missing and inform emergency responders if someone is unaccounted for.
- Do not use elevators during an evacuation.
- Do not enter a cloud of anything hugging the ground.

## **AFTER A CHEMICAL SPILL**

- Follow instructions by emergency personnel
- Return to your building
- Stay alert to emergency personnel with feedback on spill cleanup