

## Recognizing & Responding to Signs of a Gas Leak

Leaking gas from an appliance, damaged pipeline or gas meter could cause a fire, explosion, property damage or serious bodily injury. Use your senses, along with any of the following signs, to alert you to the presence of a gas leak:

### **Sight:**

- » A damaged connection to a gas appliance
- » Dirt or water being thrown in the air
- » Dead or dying vegetation (in an otherwise moist area) over or near pipeline areas
- » A fire or explosion near a pipeline
- » Exposed pipeline after an earthquake, fire, flood or other disaster

### **Sound:**

- » An unusual sound, such as hissing, whistling or roaring near a gas appliance or gas house piping

### **Smell:**

- » The distinctive odor\* of natural gas

\* Some persons may not be able to smell because they have a diminished sense of smell, the olfactory fatigue (normal, temporary inability to distinguish an odor after prolonged exposure to it.) Or because the odor is being masked or hidden by other odors that are present, such as cooking, damp, musty, or chemical odors. In addition, certain conditions in type and soil can cause odor fade—the loss of odorant so that it is not detectable by smell.

### **If you detect signs of a natural gas leak, follow these important steps:**

- » Remain calm
- » Don't light a match, candle or cigarette
- » Don't turn electrical appliances or lights on or off or use any device that could cause a spark
- » Immediately evacuate the area from a safe location, then call the gas company



Sempra Energy: **1.800.427.2200 or call 911** ~ 24 hours a day | 7 days a week

For more information visit: [www.socalgas.com/safety](http://www.socalgas.com/safety)

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