

CLARK COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

FIELD OPERATIONS GUIDE

Natural Gas Emergencies

SAFETY CONCERNS

- o Whenever possible shut off gas at the valve closest to ground level.
- o Keep the gas meter cool during structure fires to prevent it from melting.
- o Do not ventilate gas from the structure. This may cause a possible spark from the HVAC.
- o Approach any structures with explosive flammable concentrations of gas from the corners of the building.
- o A 1% gas concentration reading inside a residence warrants calling the gas company.

PRIORITY ACTIONS

- o Evacuate the structure involved and any structures that are deemed exposures.
- o **Request the gas and power company to respond to the scene.** (advise dispatch that the technicians should report to the command post)
- o Electrical power should be cut from a transformer or power line, not the junction box inside the residence. Power needs to be cut to every structure that could be exposed to a flammable concentration of gas.
- o When requesting the gas company to respond advise dispatch of the following:
 - Type of occupancies affected*
 - Any aerial power line above the affected area*
 - If the leak occurred as a result of directional boring, include the type of surface covering the bored tunnel (i.e., asphalt, concrete ect).*
- o When providing safety back for a gas company technician who is securing a leak, do so with two firefighters in full PPE. One firefighter should have a dry chemical extinguisher and another with a 1 3/4 inch hand line on a 30 to 35 degree fog pattern.

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SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Use the gas company technician as your **“technical expert”**
- Call on-duty BC to inform what your situation is.
- Consider calling police for evacuation.
- Consider weather behavior for ignition source and gas spread.