

	<b>Nokomis Fire Department</b>		
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Directive</b>	<b>Number</b>
	May 2, 2019	#4	#402
		<b>Category</b> <b>R.O.G</b>	
	<b>Propane and Natural Gas Leaks</b>		

## **PURPOSE:**

Leaks involving propane and natural gas must be considered to pose a significant risk of ignition and subsequent injuries to both emergency response personnel and bystanders. Such incidents are to be handled with extreme caution due to the material's flammable and oxygen displacement characteristics.

## **GUIDELINE:**

The following defines actions to be taken during incidents involving either propane or natural gas:

### **Engine Company Responsibilities:**

#### **Approach**

1. All units approach from up-wind, when possible.
2. First arriving unit shall position itself no closer than 300 feet to the incident location until the situation has been fully evaluated and closer placement is determined to be safe.
3. All other arriving units shall stage up-wind at a location not less than 1200 feet away and await orders from Incident Command (IC).

#### **Arrival**

1. All personnel operating in or near the immediate vicinity of the hazardous atmosphere shall wear full protective clothing, including SCBA.
2. The first arriving unit shall give a verbal size-up and assume command of the incident.
3. Isolate the area, deny entry, and evacuate endangered persons.

#### **Outside Leaks**

1. Consider or establish a water supply. Attempt to locate the leak using witnesses or bystanders for information.

2. If **PROPANE**, place charged hose line in-service and disperse vapors which may be forming.
3. Consider **LAW ENFORCEMENT** for crowd and traffic control.
4. **PREVENT SMOKING OR OTHER IGNITION SOURCES.** Do not operate any electrical switches (***IF ON - LEAVE ON AND IF OFF - LEAVE OFF***).
5. Observe changes in wind direction.
6. If **NATURAL GAS**, allow fuel to naturally dissipate in an upward direction unless there are nearby exposures. If exposures are present, disperse vapors with fog pattern. If an excavation is involved and vapors must be dispersed also use a fog pattern, **DO NOT FILL THE HOLE WITH WATER.**
7. Gas flow may be shut off at the meter (if at a building) and the meter is not involved.
8. **DO NOT SHUT OFF** natural gas leaks at any street valves. Only gas company personnel may close gas line street valves.

### **Inside Leaks**

1. Establish a water supply.
2. Shut off gas supply to the structure.
3. **DO NOT** enter the structure until atmospheric testing has been completed.
4. Have charged lines ready prior to entry.
5. If entry into the structure is necessary, a minimum of two firefighters in full protective clothing and SCBA may enter the structure to begin ventilation using natural means and/or PPV to accomplish evacuation.

\*Ensure that the PPV is set up in a NON-HAZARDOUS atmosphere.

### **Fires Involving Flammable Gases**

1. Do not extinguish any fire involving flammable gases. Shut off the fuel supply to extinguish the fire.
2. For fires with flame impingement on closed containers, place hose lines to protect exposures until the gas flow can be shut off.

### **Gas Company Assistance**

To obtain gas company assistance, advise dispatch to contact the appropriate company as outlined in the following guidelines. Make sure that you advise dispatch of the **LOCATION OF THE COMMAND POST AND RESPONSE ROUTE TO BE USED BY THE GAS COMPANY PERSONNEL.**

Gas company personnel have been advised to report directly to the Incident Commander upon arrival.

### ***Natural Gas Leaks***

Contact the appropriate gas utility company.

### ***Propane Tank Leaks***

Contact the company that services the tank or if unknown, contact the appropriate propane vendor.

### **Additional Requirements**

1. All gas company personnel shall wear proper protective equipment while operating in a hazardous atmosphere.
2. Any gas service valve which has been closed shall be secured according to Lockout/Tagout Procedures.
3. Any gas service valve, which has been shut off, shall be reopened by **gas company personnel only**.
4. No electrical system shall be used in a flammable atmosphere unless they have been properly tested and approved for such usage.

### **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS GROUP RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Upon arrival, position Squad 8 approximately 1200 feet from the incident and await approval from IC to approach.
2. Responsibilities:
  - Monitor for flammable concentrations by appropriate means.
  - Assist engine companies as requested by IC.
  - Make recommendations to IC concerning safety, evacuation, and control zones.
  - Assist in other operations as requested by IC.
  - Notify Sarasota County Emergency Management if indicated.