



## City of Davis Fire Department



# Natural Gas Safety Tips\*

- Natural gas is odorless and colorless. As a safety precaution, PG&E adds a sulfur-like odor to natural gas to help people identify gas leaks.
- DO NOT rely on your sense of smell alone to detect the presence of natural gas, the following signs may indicate the presence of a gas leak: a hissing, whistling or roaring sound near a gas appliance or pipeline; a damaged connection to a gas appliance; dead or dying vegetation in an otherwise moist area over or near pipeline areas; dirt or water being thrown in the air; a fire or explosion near a pipeline; and exposed pipeline after an earthquake, fire, flood or other disaster.
- Keep a flashlight handy to investigate minor gas odors. Never use matches or candles to look for gas leaks, and never turn any electric switches on or off if you suspect a gas leak.
- Many older gas appliances and most water heaters have a small, continuously burning gas flame – the pilot light – that ignites the main burner. Some newer models have electronic igniters.
- Check pilot lights to see if they are lit and know which of your appliances have a pilot light. If the pilot light is out, shut the gas off at the appliances gas shutoff valve. Always wait five minutes to let gas disperse before trying to relight an appliance pilot light.
- Know how to relight any pilot lights following the appliance manufacturers' instructions. Often, basic relight instructions are located inside the main burner compartment door. If you cannot relight the pilot light yourself, call PG&E or another qualified professional for assistance.
- When installing gas appliances or equipment, the manufacturer's instruction manual should be followed in accordance with the local code authority.
- If the smell of gas continues, or if you have any doubts, open windows and doors and get everyone out of the building. Using a phone **away** from the building, **call 9-1-1** and PG&E at 1-800-743-5000.

[fire/cityofdavis.org](http://fire/cityofdavis.org)

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\*Source: [www.pge.com/myhome/edusafety/gaselectricsafety/gasodorpilot/](http://www.pge.com/myhome/edusafety/gaselectricsafety/gasodorpilot/)