

Natural gas safety



Energy at work  **FORTIS BC™**

What is natural gas?



Natural gas is mostly methane and other hydrocarbons (hydrogen and carbon). It's found in sedimentary rock underground.

Natural gas occurs naturally in the ground and is formed from the decomposition of plants and animals that lived millions of years ago.

How is natural gas used in the home?



Natural gas fireplace and furnace



Natural gas stove



Natural gas water heater



Safety around natural gas appliances

When switching on a gas stove:

- Make sure the gas ignites and you can see a flame.

When using a gas stove:

- Keep loose clothing away from the flame.
- Keep hands away from the flame.

When turning on a gas heater/fireplace:

- Make sure the gas ignites and you can see a flame.
- Keep a safe distance away from the heater/fireplace.

Where have you seen this equipment?



Safety around a natural gas meter

- Never climb on a gas meter.
- Don't tie things to a gas meter.
- Never lean your bike on a gas meter.
- Remind adults to clear snow build-up from around a gas meter.



How to tell if there's a gas leak

Natural gas has no smell. **Mercaptan**, a chemical that smells like rotten eggs or sulphur, is added to natural gas so people can smell when there is a gas leak.



What should you do if you smell natural gas?



Steps to stay safe

1. Tell an adult right away.
2. Don't use your phone or turn any lights on or off.
3. Go outside, leaving the door open.
4. Once outside, call FortisBC's 24-hour emergency line:
1-800-663-9911 or **911**.
5. Don't go back inside until FortisBC has said it's safe to.

Have you seen
this sign in
your
community?



Safety near right of way area

A **right of way** corridor contains natural gas pipelines underground. Yellow warning signs are posted along the corridor.

Never dig in a right of way corridor.

Quiz

Test your knowledge of safety around natural gas



1. What should you check for when turning on a burner on a gas stove?

2. Name one thing you shouldn't do to a gas meter.

3. What actions should you take if you smell natural gas?

4. What shouldn't you do in an area with natural gas pipelines underground?

5. What's the name of the chemical that smells like rotten eggs and is added to natural gas?

