

Safety Memo

Natural Gas Safety

Natural gas is one of the safest, most reliable, efficient and environmentally friendly fuels in use today delivering natural gas for heating, water heating and cooking as well as other natural gas appliances. Natural gas for Alcorn State University is delivered through a jurisdictional natural gas pipeline system. Like any form of energy, though, it must be handled responsibly. Alcorn State University is the master meter operator and has valves, regulators and pressure stations on campus. Always remember safety first when operating natural gas appliances of any kind.

Natural gas is a nontoxic, colorless and odorless fuel that is lighter than air. The lighter-than-air quality is an important safety factor. If a leak occurs, natural gas will mix readily with air and rise into the atmosphere. As a safety measure the natural gas that is piped to your home or business has a harmless odor similar to rotten eggs so that you can easily detect the smallest amount of gas that might escape.

From design and construction to operations and maintenance, natural gas utilities like ours set high standards to keep natural gas pipelines incident-free.

Damage Prevention

Although safe, tested, and regulated, the system's most common hazard is from 3rd party damage from excavation. Before any excavations are done, contact Dig Safety-Mississippi One-Call System, Inc. 1-800-227-6477 or 811 and call Alcorn State University, Jeff Posey, 601-877-6470. Always call before you dig. **It's as easy as dialing 8-1-1, and it's the law!**

Detecting A Natural Gas Leak

Natural gas is one of the safest, most reliable and environmentally friendly fuels in use today, but leaks can occur. There are three key ways to recognize a natural gas leak.

- **Look.** Blowing dirt, bubbling creeks or ponds, dry spots in moist areas or dead plants surrounded by green, live plants also indicate a natural gas leak.
- **Listen.** An unusual hissing sound near gas lines or appliances may indicate a natural gas leak.
- **Smell.** In its raw state, natural gas is colorless and odorless. Natural gas utility companies add a substance called mercaptan to create the familiar, rotten-egg odor usually associated with natural gas. You should take action if you detect only a faint odor of natural gas in air.

Natural Gas Safety Tips:

Here are some key words to help you remember what to do if a natural gas leak is suspected:

- **Leave.** Leave the area immediately. Do not try to find or stop the leak.
- **Don't Touch.** Do not smoke, use a cell phone, flashlight, turn on or off any lights or appliances or operate any kind of vehicle or equipment that could create a spark.
- **Dial.** Immediately notify us. If a leak is suspected call the following number 601-877-6470.

Remember- Never try to find the leak yourself!!!

To Report a Gas Leak Call 601-877-6470 (8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.) or campus police on weekends and after hours at 601-877-3000.