

# Tully Hose Co. #1

Standard Operating Guidelines  
Natural Gas Emergencies  
Guideline # TF-315 – Rev.1

**Purpose:** To establish a guideline for responding to a natural gas emergency.

**General:** Natural gas is colorless and odorless. The gas company adds an odorant so personnel can smell the gas in the event of a leak. Natural gas is lighter than air and will rise if escaping pressure. The flammable limits of natural gas are 4% to 14%.

## **DISPATCH:**

Upon receiving an alarm, a full first alarm assignment will respond to the scene for investigation.

All firefighters must be in full personnel protective equipment including SCBA's.

## **ON SCENE:**

All responding apparatus will approach the area with caution. The Incident Command System will be initiated. The Incident Commander will determine the nature of the leak, set up perimeters (hot, warm, and cold) and request the required services if not already enroute (National Grid, Haz-Mat, EMS).

### **Escaping Gas Outside of a Structure**

- A. Eliminate ignition sources.
- B. Restrict access to the area.
- C. Determine if the leak can be isolated and, if possible, isolate.
- D. Call National Grid

### **Escaping Gas Inside of a Structure**

- A. Eliminate ignition sources.
- B. Restrict access to the area.
- C. Shut off the gas flow at the main gas valve outside the structure or to the affected area of the structure (ie: stove, boiler, water heater, etc.)
- D. Natural ventilation is to be setup.
- E. A 1 ¾ safety line shall be in place.
- F. Check structure for gas levels by using a meter after the main valve has been shut down.

**Burning Gas Outside of a Structure**

- A. Protect exposures and recognize the high radiant heat hazards.
- B. If possible, attempt to secure the natural gas leak by utilizing a main shut off.
- C. Call National Grid.

**Burning Gas Inside of a Structure**

- A. Shut off the flow of gas at the main shut off valve outside the structure.
- B. Protect the exposures.
- C. Extinguish the remaining fire.
- D. Call National Grid.
- E. Call the Fire Inspector to the scene.

Once the scene has been secured, the Incident Commander will notify the residents or occupants of the status of the structure and affected areas.