

December 3, 2015

Southern University at New Orleans owns and operates master meter natural gas distribution systems on the campus. The gas system consists of underground networks of pipelines. The purpose of the gas system is to provide a reliable and safe economical source of energy for heating purposes. The pipeline system has the capacity to reliably deliver natural gas.

The following are hazards of natural gas:

- It is odorless, colorless, tasteless
- It is lighter than air and can ignite and/or explode with tremendous force when mixed with the right amount of air

Prevention measures taken include:

- Adding odorant to the gas to give it that distinctive smell, similar to rotten eggs, to warn us of its presence
- Testing the odorant level each calendar quarter
- Performing annual gas leakage surveys
- Conducting periodic pipeline patrols

The following are signs that may indicate a gas leak:

- A hissing or roaring sound (caused by escaping gas)
- A patch of dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green setting along a pipeline route
- Blowing dirt, grass or leaves near a pipeline
- Continuous bubbling in wet, flooded areas
- A "gas smell" similar to rotten eggs

Anyone who may smell this odor or notice any unusual conditions on or near gas mains, vents, service lines, meter sets or especially inside of a building should call the Facilities Management Office immediately. If you smell a strong gas odor inside a building, notify everyone in the building to leave. Do not operate any switches or use the phone. Go a safe distance away upwind of the gas smell and call the Facilities Management Office. With any gas leak, protect life first then property, then notify Facilities Management Office.

State and federal laws require excavators to notify LA One-Call two days before digging. If any excavation is planned you must notify LA One-Call, which will notify
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the Facilities Management Office to locate the gas lines. Southern University at New Orleans maintains membership in the LA One-Call program.

To obtain additional information or report a gas related issue call Facilities Maintenance Office at 504-286-5292. The LA One-Call Center phone number is 811.