

BURLINGTON TWP. FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE #18

PROPANE/NATURAL GAS LEAK

Purpose: This policy establishes the department procedures for a gas leak.

Scope: To provide steps for action when dealing with a propane or natural gas leak.

Apparatus Response:

1. 15-21
2. 15-22
3. 15-31

Upon arrival at scene Establish Incident Command:

1. If no officer is available, the most senior Firefighter will be in charge as I.C. If there is a question of seniority, the driver of the engine will be the I.C.
2. Upon command of the I.C. all units will switch to the fire incident channel assigned by Central Dispatch. I.C. will request a fire incident channel if one is not assigned by Central Dispatch.
3. I.C. is to give a scene size up report and request any additional resources that are needed.
4. If/When transferring command, be sure to communicate all information that has been noted and all decisions made.
5. All personnel reporting in will place I.D. tag in its proper location. (Refer to Passport Accountability System S.O.G. #4).
6. All personnel shall wear all appropriate Personal Protective Equipment. Anyone entering any atmosphere that could be hazardous to their health must wear an SCBA.

Procedures:

1. Drivers will park vehicles a minimum of 150 feet from the source of the leak.
2. Approach the leak upwind, upstream, and uphill.
3. Stay away from low areas, propane gas is heavier than air and will seek the lowest point. Natural gas will rise and seek the highest point.
4. I.C shall determine what type of gas is leaking, and have Central Dispatch notify the appropriate gas company and/or other utility service as needed.
5. 1-1/2" hose or larger will be advanced from the engine and manned by personnel wearing SCBA at a safe distance from the leak.

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6. Before doing any work with a gas leak, external ignition sources (cell phones, digital cameras, ect.) shall be eliminated. Other ignition sources shall be eliminated at the discretion of the I.C.
7. If it is deemed safe to turn the gas source off to stop the leak, members are permitted to do so.
8. The need for civilian evacuation will be at the discretion of the I.C.
9. Three long steady blasts from the air-horn will mean to evacuate the direct area immediately.
10. The Burlington Twp. Fire Department will remain on scene until personnel from the appropriate gas company have arrived on scene, or if I.C. has secured the shut off (Refer to Lockout/Tagout S.O.G.).
11. Once the leak has been secured ventilation may take place at the discretion of the I.C.
12. If additional information is required for a natural gas leak refer to the SEMCO Safe Handling Guide located in each apparatus report book.
13. I.C shall ensure all appropriate paperwork, inspections, and work is completed before leaving the station.

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