

What is Natural Gas?



Natural gas plays an important role in our lives. Gas fireplaces and heaters keep us warm in the winter. Some stoves also use natural gas to boil water and cook food. Natural gas travels through underground pipelines to reach our homes. SoCalGas tests these pipelines regularly to make sure there are no dangerous natural gas leaks. There are also steps you can take to stay safe around natural gas. **Keep reading to learn how!**



How to Sense a Gas Leak

Natural gas leaks can happen outside or indoors. Fortunately, recognizing the signs of a natural gas leak is as easy as using your senses. **Place the words into the correct order to create a sentence and find out how your senses can help you.**

- has odor Natural a gas distinctive.
3 6 1 4 2 5
- not do, leak a smell always You gas could may be it, you but it if natural.
3 10 17 14 5 4 1 16 12 2 13 6 9 7 11 8 15
- leak hissing like gas may A sound natural.
4 8 7 3 5 1 6 2
- hear also whistling may You sounds.
4 3 5 2 1 6
- noise appliances may a natural leak An be unusual from that use gas gas.
3 5 10 12 8 14 1 11 2 4 6 7 9 13
- the a leak bubbling mean could Water on gas ground natural.
4 8 11 2 7 6 1 3 10 5 9
- dirt air So blowing could the up into.
3 8 1 4 2 7 5 6
- dead gas may or dying grass be weeds near a leak Plants, or natural.
12 8 10 3 14 2 11 4 5 6 9 1 13 7

Steps to Safety

What should you do if you see bubbling water, hear a strange sound or smell an unusual natural gas odor? When you notice signs of a natural gas leak, it's important to avoid danger by following these steps. **Read about each step and then solve the maze.**

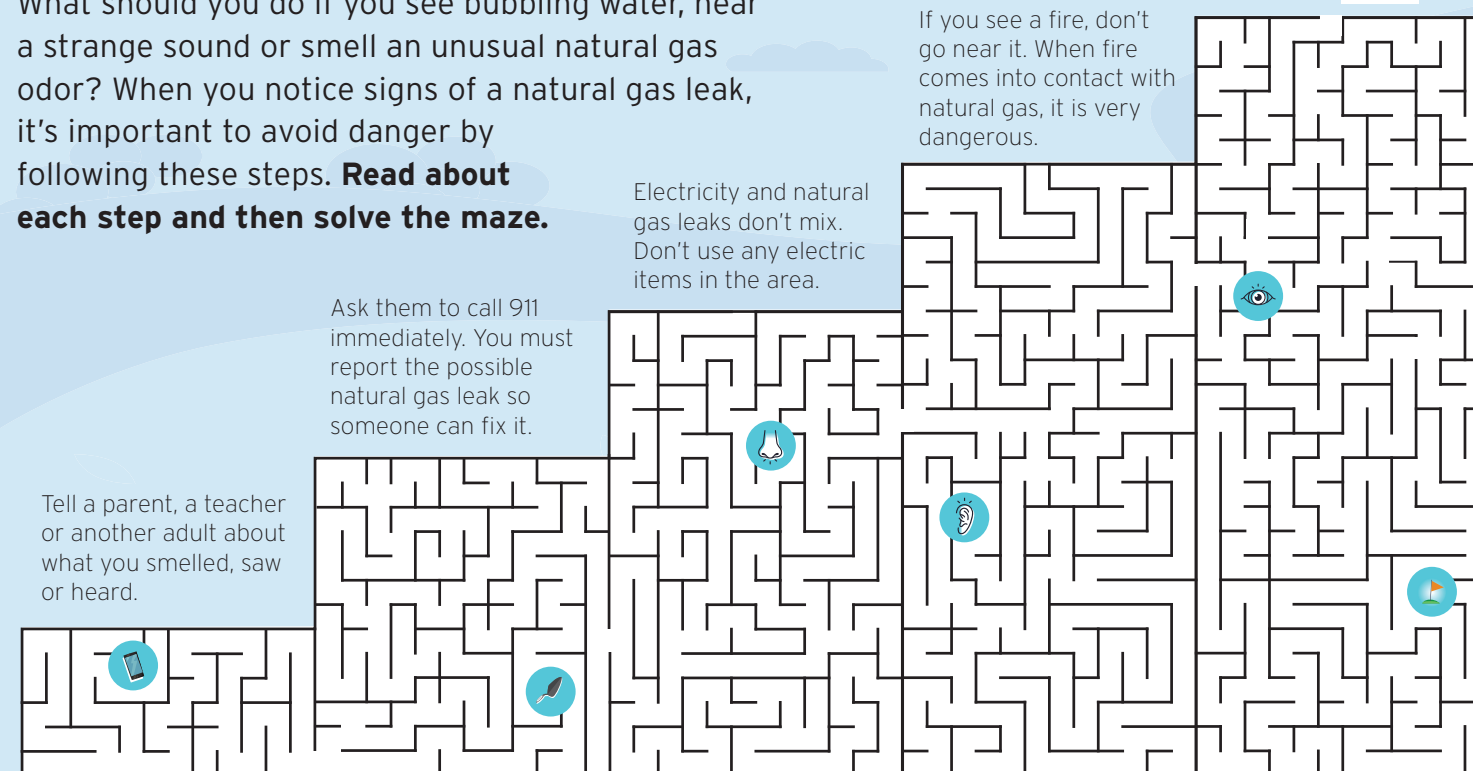
Get as far away as possible as quickly as possible.

If you see a fire, don't go near it. When fire comes into contact with natural gas, it is very dangerous.

Electricity and natural gas leaks don't mix. Don't use any electric items in the area.

Ask them to call 911 immediately. You must report the possible natural gas leak so someone can fix it.

Tell a parent, a teacher or another adult about what you smelled, saw or heard.



Help Prevent Gas Leaks with 811

When something comes into contact with natural gas pipelines, a leak can occur. That's why it's important to avoid gas pipelines when you dig. There are also electrical wires, water pipes and other utility lines under the ground. An adult should contact 811 at least two business days before you start building a fence, planting a tree or doing any digging. They can call 811 or visit california811.org. Mark the area where you plan to dig with white chalk or paint. A worker will come place flags or other markings to show you where there are underground lines. **Color the flags using the key to learn about what these markings mean.**

Key

- ELECTRIC
- NATURAL GAS, OIL OR STEAM
- COMMUNICATIONS
- WATER
- RECLAIMED WATER
- SEWER
- TEMPORARY MARKINGS

Safety Alert

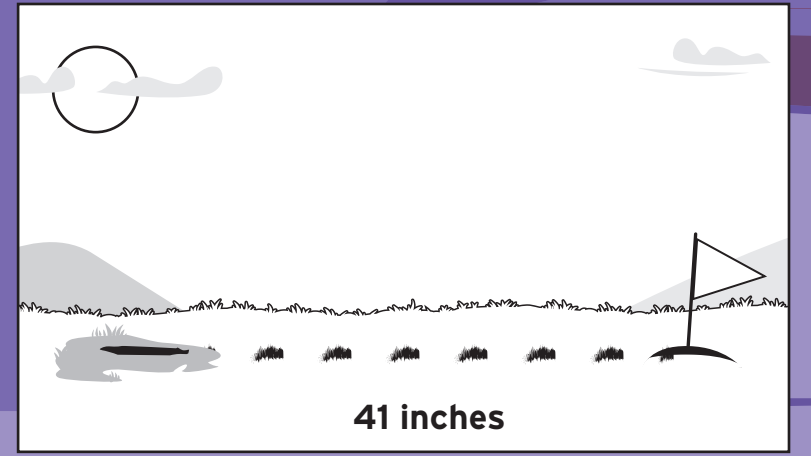
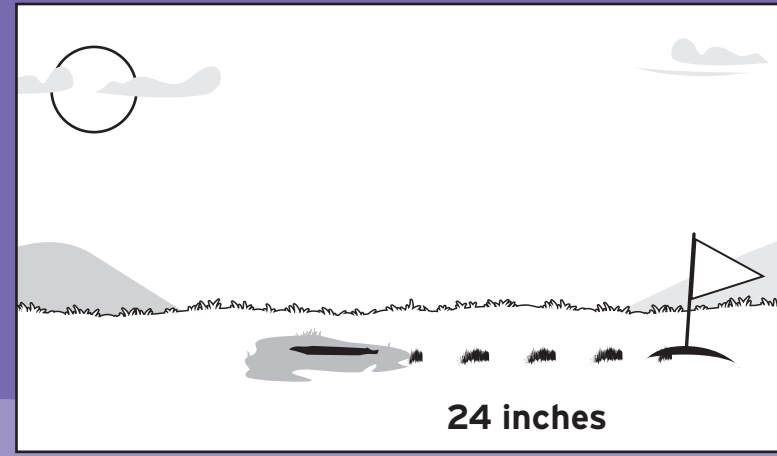
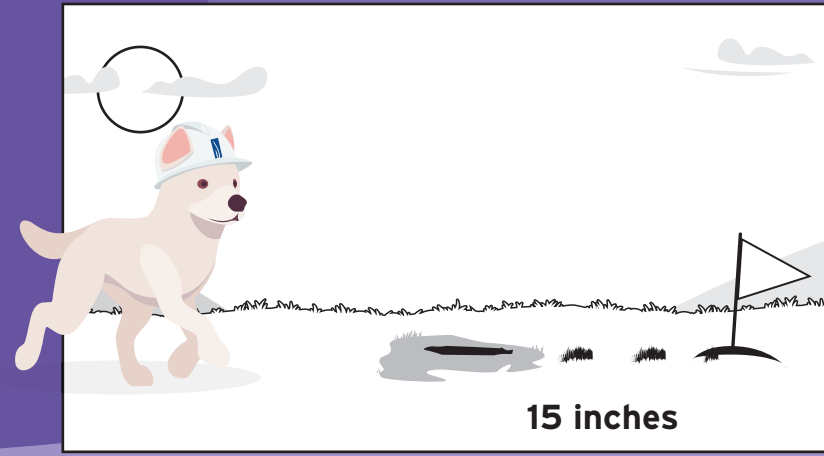
Remember!

Do not move any flags you may see after contacting 811. Leave them in place until your digging project is done.



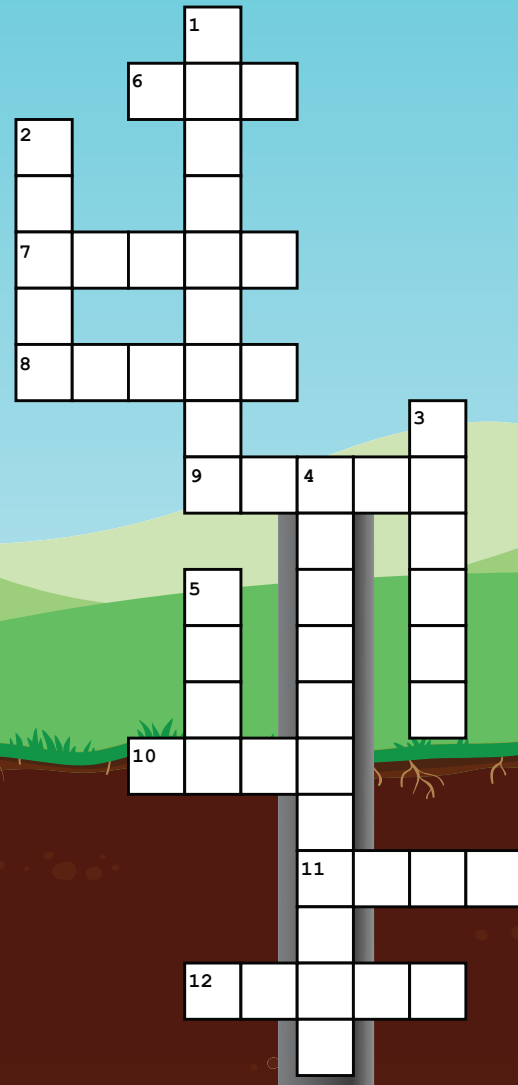
Dig Smart, Dig Safe

What should you do if there's a flag close to your digging area? To stay safe, always use a hand tool instead of a large digging machine within 24 inches of a flag. Digging carefully will help you avoid a natural gas pipe or other line. Look at the flags and digging areas in each picture. **Determine the safest choice and draw a machine or hand tool.**



Safety Review

What have you learned about natural gas safety? Fill in the answers to find out!



Word Bank

DOWN

1. _____ carry natural gas under the ground.
2. After contacting 811, keep all _____ in place until you are finished digging.
3. Dead or dying _____, grass or weeds may be a sign of a gas leak.
4. Do not use anything that runs on _____ when there is a gas leak.
5. Use a _____ tool to dig within 24 inches of a flag.

ACROSS

6. Contact 811 at least two business days before you plan to _____.
7. If you see, smell, or hear a gas leak, you should tell an _____.
8. A gas leak can make a whistling or hissing _____.
9. You may not always be able to _____ a natural gas leak.
10. Natural gas may have an unusual _____.
11. We _____ our food with natural gas.
12. There may be a gas leak if you see bubbling _____ on the ground or dirt blowing into the air.



True or False?

Read each statement and decide if it's true or false. Circle the T for true and the F for false.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. If there is a natural gas leak, you will always be able to smell it. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 2. 811 markings show you where there are pipes and wires under the ground. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 3. You should tell an adult and ask them to call 911 if you notice signs of a natural gas leak. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 4. It's safe to use a shovel within 24 inches of an 811 flag. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 5. You can move an 811 flag even if you're not finished digging. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |

Learn more at socalgas.com/safety

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ANSWER KEY
1. Pipelines, 2. Flags, 3. Plants, 4. Electricity, 5. Hand, 6. Dig, 7. Adult, 8. Sound, 9. Smell, 10. Odor, 11. Cook, 12. Water

ANSWER KEY
1. False. Natural gas has an unusual smell, but you won't always be able to smell it.
2. True. Each type of pipe or wire will be marked with a different color of flag.
3. True. An adult should call 911 to report a possible natural gas leak, and you should get as far away as you can.
4. True. Only use hand tools to dig within 24 inches of a flag.
5. False. Leave 811 flags in place until your digging project is complete.