

Enjoy Natural Gas Safely

So many of the comforts and conveniences we enjoy in our homes today are made possible by natural gas. But like any other energy source, natural gas must be used with care. The following information will help make sure that your natural gas experience is both enjoyable and safe. Should you have any questions, please contact your local SCE&G office.

Even though natural gas is one of the cleanest and safest energy sources available, leaks may occur in rare instances. To ensure your safety, natural gas is injected with a distinct odor—often compared to the smell of rotten eggs. Usually you can smell this odor long before the level of gas becomes hazardous. **If you ever suspect a gas leak or smell gas in your home, leave the area immediately**, go to a neighbor's or nearby phone and call the gas company at **1-800-815-0083**.

Natural gas is an excellent choice for water heating. But if allowed to get too hot, that water can scald causing serious injuries—especially if young children are able to

reach hot water faucets. Always set your water heater to the manufacturer's specifications, usually 110 to 120 degrees.

Home appliances make our lives more comfortable, but to keep your family safe, appliances must be properly installed and maintained. While natural gas is not toxic, it can produce carbon monoxide (like any other fossil fuel) if it does not burn completely. Be watchful for things like yellow flames, flickering flames or soot that might indicate an appliance with a problem. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headache, dizziness, heart flutters, fatigue and nausea.

Before you pick up a shovel, whether you're planting a few shrubs, installing a pool, sprinkler system or fence, pick up a phone and call the Palmetto Utility Protection Service (PUPS) first at **1-888-721-7877**. At no charge, they will send a representative to mark where your gas lines are, so you can be sure to avoid them. Calling PUPS before you dig is not only safe, it's the law.



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Review this information with your family to ensure everyone knows what to do in case of a gas emergency.