



Keys to Natural Gas Safety

Village of Rantoul

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A NATURAL GAS LEAK

EMERGENCIES

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., please call Village of Rantoul Public Works Department at **892-2178**.

After hours, weekends and holidays, please call the Village of Rantoul Police Department at **892-2103**.

NON-EMERGENCIES

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., please call Village of Rantoul Public Works Department at **892-2178**.

The Village of Rantoul owns and operates the natural gas system on the former Chanute Air Force Base properties. This encompasses the south area of Rantoul, from the businesses along the new Veterans Parkway south to Chandler Road and from west of East Perimeter Road to Route #45.

If you suspect a natural gas leak, call as soon as possible. Indications of a leak could be as subtle as the following:

- A slight odor of gas.
- An unusual hissing sound.
- An area where vegetation does not grow.

To the more obvious such as:

- A strong gas odor.
- Gas blowing out of the ground.

If you suspect a natural gas leak:

- Do not attempt to locate the leak.
- When there is a strong odor of gas, leave the building immediately.
- Do not turn on or off, or



Call 892-2178

unplug appliances, or use your telephone.

- Do not use elevators.

When calling, be prepared to provide the following information:

- Your name and address.
- Is the leak inside or outside?
- Your neighbor's telephone number, if known.

If there are any questions regarding your natural gas service, please contact the Village of Rantoul Public Works Department at 892-2178.

Inside this issue:

What to Do in Case of a Natural Gas Leak 1

Maintaining Your Gas Pipelines 1

Protect Your Family Against Carbon Monoxide 2

What If You Suspect Carbon Monoxide Poisoning? 2

What About Carbon Monoxide Detectors? 2

Gas Meters 3

MAINTAINING YOUR GAS PIPELINES

As required by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) and as a service to our customers, the Village of Rantoul and all gas system operators are required to share the following information with our customers:

1. The Village of Rantoul (operator) does not maintain customer's piping. This is the piping from the meter to the natural gas-burning appliances throughout your home, building and property indoors and outdoors, above and below

- ground.
- If the customer's buried piping is not maintained, it may be subject to the potential hazards of corrosion and leakage.
- Buried gas piping should be:
 - Periodically inspected for leaks.
 - Periodically inspected for corrosion if piping is metallic and;
 - Repaired if any unsafe condition is discovered.

- When excavating near buried piping, the piping should be located in advance, and the excavation should be done by hand.
- The operator, plumbing contractors, and heating contractors can assist in locating, and repairing the customer's buried piping.

If you have any questions regarding your gas service or buried pipelines, please contact Geoff Sinclair at the Village of Rantoul Public Works Department at 892-2178.



Call J.U.L.I.E. before you dig
1-800-892-0123 or 811



“Don’t ignore symptoms.”

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY AGAINST CARBON MONOXIDE

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas that interferes with the delivery of oxygen in the blood to the rest of the body. It is a produced by the incomplete combustion of carbon-containing fuels including coal, wood, charcoal, natural gas and fuel oil, resulting in more than 200 fatalities per year.

What are the Health Risks & Symptoms?

Carbon monoxide interferes with the distribution of oxygen in the blood to the rest of the body. Depending on the amount inhaled, this gas can impede coordination, worsen cardiovascular conditions and produce fatigue, headache, weakness,

confusion, disorientation, nausea, and dizziness. Very high levels can cause death.

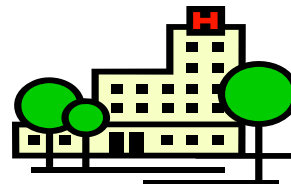
What Can Be Done to Prevent CO Poisoning?

- Ensure that appliances are properly adjusted and working to manufacturers’ instructions and local building codes.
- Obtain annual inspections for heating system, chimneys, and flues and have them cleaned by a qualified technician.
- Open flues when fireplaces are in use.
- Use proper fuel in kerosene space heaters.
- Do not use ovens and gas ranges to heat your home.
- Do not burn charcoal inside a home, cabin, recreational vehicle, or camper.
- Make sure stoves and heaters are vented to the outside and that exhaust systems do not leak.
- Do not use unvented gas or kerosene space heaters in enclosed spaces.
- Never leave a car or lawn mower engine running in a shed or garage, or in any enclosed space.
- Make sure your furnace has adequate intake of outside air.

WHAT IF YOU SUSPECT CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING?

Don’t ignore symptoms, especially if more than one person is feeling them. If you think you are suffering from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, you should:

- Get fresh air immediately. Open doors and windows. Turn off combustion appliances and leave the house.
- Go to an emergency room. Be sure to tell the physician that you suspect CO poisoning.



WHAT ABOUT CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS?

Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors can be used as backup *but not as a replacement* for proper use and maintenance of your fuel-burning appliances. CO detector technology is still being developed and the detectors are not generally considered to be as reliable as the smoke detectors found in homes today. You should not choose a CO detector solely on the basis of cost; do some research on the different features available.

Carbon monoxide detectors should meet Underwriters Laboratories Inc. Standards, have a

long-term warranty, and be easily self-tested and reset to ensure proper function. For maximum effectiveness during sleeping hours. Carbon monoxide detectors should be placed closed to sleeping areas.

If your CO detector goes off, you should:

- Make sure it is the CO detector and not the smoke alarm.
- Check to see if any member of your household is experiencing symptoms. If

they are, get them out of the house immediately and seek medical attention.

- If no one is feeling symptoms, ventilate the home with fresh air and turn off all potential sources of CO.
- Have a qualified technician inspect your fuel-burning appliances and chimneys to make sure they are operating correctly.

Reference: <http://www.nsc.org/library/facts/carbmono.htm>



Gas Meters

It is important that the Village of Rantoul Gas Division has full access to your meter, and that you keep it clear of any obstruction that can damage your meter or prevent us from reading it. A damaged meter can lead to a dangerous gas leak. If you believe your meter has been damaged, call the Village of Rantoul Public Works Department at 892-2178.

Do not move meters and regulators

If your gas meter needs to be moved, call the Village of Rantoul Public Works Department to have a qualified gas service representative perform the work. Moving or tampering with a meter or regulator can cause a hazardous gas leak.

Only a Village of Rantoul Gas representative is authorized to move your gas meter or regulator. Do not attempt to move or tamper with your gas meter, regulator or any associated piping or permit anyone else to do the same.

Landscaping

Do not place mulch around the meter. This could cause a failure

in the meter or regulator and ignite the gas. Mulch is combustible and can cause a fire.

When landscaping, care should be taken not to cover the valve on the meter set. There should be at least 6" of clearance between the bottom of the valve and the ground line. This clearance prevents corrosion.

Other obstructions

If your meter and/or regulator is located where other objects such as vehicles that could possibly collide with or damage the meter and/or regulator, you must install physical protection (such as a guardrail or steel post).

Snow and Ice

During the upcoming winter months, please keep in mind the following safety tips;

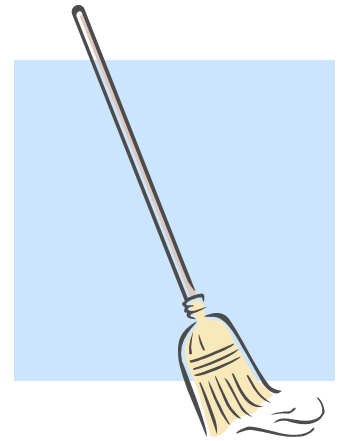
In order for the regulator to operate properly, the regulator vent on your meter set must remain clear of all debris.

Snow or ice buildup covering the outside venting of a furnace, water heater or clothes dryer can cause a hazardous buildup of carbon monoxide.

To prevent problems, follow these tips:

- Use a broom (not a shovel) to clear snow from your meter, regulator and vents.
- Remove icicles hanging above your meter.
- Sweep snow away from the outside opening of natural gas appliances (such as clothes dryers).
- Be sure whomever removes snow from your property is aware of the placement of your meter if it is near a sidewalk or driveway.
- If your meter set becomes encased in ice, call us.

Reference: <http://www.nicor.com/nsr/nicorsafetyinsert.pdf>



Use a broom to clear snow from your meter, regulator and vents.

“Do not place mulch around the gas meter, it can cause a fire.”

