

# CITY OF DUMAS PUBLIC SAFETY



GAS DEPARTMENT  
PO BOX 438  
DUMAS, TEXAS  
806-935-4707

# IDENTIFY THE SMELL OF GAS!!!!

- If you ever think you smell gas, call the City of Dumas at: (806) 935-4101 or (806) 935-4707 after hours call: (806) 935-2151 or 911
- ❖ Natural gas is a non-toxic, colorless fuel, about one-third lighter than air. Gas burns, but only when mixed with air in the right proportion and ignited by a spark or flame. Natural gas is odorless in its natural state. We add a disagreeable smell to let you know if any gas is escaping. Gas leakage may occur from faulty appliances, loose connections, and service lines inside or outside your home, or from gas mains. Leaks can be dangerous and should be dealt with promptly by experts.
- ❖ **IF YOU EVER SMELL GAS OR HEAR GAS – even if you do not use it in your home – take these precautions promptly:**
- ❖ Your safety is important to us. If you smell or hear gas, you should immediately follow the steps below:

# HOW TO IDENTIFY A LEAK

## The following signs may indicate a natural gas pipeline leak or failure:

- a hissing, roaring or blowing sound
- dirt being blown into the air
- water being blown into the air at a pond, river or creek
- continuous bubbling in wet, flooded areas
- fire at or near exposed piping
- flames apparently emanating from the ground
- dead or brown vegetation in an otherwise moist or green field
- a "rotten egg" odor (Note: In its natural state, natural gas is odorless, as well as colorless and non-toxic. The City of Dumas Gas add a non-toxic chemical odorant called mercaptan to its supplies to make leaks easy to detect by smell. However, odorants are usually added to pipelines only in populated areas, so leaks, especially in open country, cannot always be detected by smell.)

# DON'TS FIRST

- Do not attempt to place calls from within the building.
- Do not turn any light switches or other switches on or off. Anything electrical could cause a spark and ignite leaking gas.
- Do not try to re-light a pilot light or strike a match. Leave gas furnaces, water heaters and other gas appliances alone. Get out of the building immediately and call The City of Dumas, Dispatch or Fire Department:
  - City of Dumas (806) 935-4101 ext. 105 or 911
  - City of Warehouse (806) 935-4707 or 911
  - Police Dispatch (806) 935-2151 or 911
  - Fire Department (806) 935-6434 or 911
- Do not use your cellular phone to call the City of Dumas unless you are outside and away from the building. Using any type of telephone could ignite the leaking gas.
- Do not email emergency requests.
- Do not start vehicles around gas leaks in outdoor locations

# DO'S

- **Do leave the building immediately.** Do not stay in the building as you might be overcome due to the lack of oxygen.
- **Do contact the City of Dumas and report the problem.** Contact us as soon as possible so that we can respond to the situation
  - City of Dumas
  - (806) 935-4101 City Hall
  - (806) 935-4707 Warehouse
  - Emergency number: (806) 935-2151 Police Dispatch or 911
- **Do remain outside the building until gas department or emergency personnel clear the facility.** Do not reenter the facility for any reason until it is determined to be safe.



**Remember, if you smell gas, what you actually smell is the odorant added to alert you of the Presence of natural gas. This is a warning sign That you should heed!!!**

# REMEMBER

1. Call the City of Dumas
2. If odor is very strong and you are indoors, go outside
3. Do not turn any electrical switches on or off
4. Do not light matches, smoke or create any other source of combustion

**Natural gas has an excellent safety record, but like other forms of energy, it requires a certain amount of caution. Gas emergencies are rare, but they can happen:**

1. Whenever gas leaks from a pipe or pipe fitting, there is a possibility of fire or explosion
2. If leaking gas accumulates in a confined space, it can displace air and cause suffocation
3. If a gas appliance is not working properly, incomplete combustion can produce carbon monoxide and other toxic gases
4. A pilot light or gas burner can ignite combustible materials and flammable vapors, such as gasoline, paint thinner or aerosol

**However slim the chances of danger; it doesn't pay to take needless risks. At the first sniff of gas, play it safe. CALL US!**

# Notice To All Gas Customers

1. **The City of Dumas Gas Department does not maintain the customer's buried piping.**
2. **If the customer's buried piping is not maintained, it may be subject to the potential hazards of corrosion and leakage**
3. **Buried gas piping should be:**
  - **Periodically inspected for leaks**
  - **Periodically inspected for corrosion if the piping is metallic**
  - **All gas piping should be repaired if any unsafe condition is discovered**
4. **When excavating near buried gas piping, the piping should be located in advance and excavation done by hand**
5. **Plumbers, and heating contractors can assist in locating, inspecting, and repairing the customer's buried piping.**

**Any question call: (806) 935-4101 or (806) 935-4707**

# DON'T DIG IN STREETS, ALLEYS OR EASEMENTS

UNTIL YOU CALL DIG TESS 1-800-344-8377

AND

THE CITY OF DUMAS

HOURS 8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM (M-F)

(806) 935-4101

OR

(806) 935-4707

24-hour emergency #: (806) 935-2151

All areas that are to be excavated should be marked with a white line at least 48 hours in advance. A City of Dumas employee will come out to spot the gas, water and sewer lines at

NO CHARGE

# Websites to Visit

- **Railroad Commission**  
**[www.rrc.state.tx.com](http://www.rrc.state.tx.com)**
- **Southern Union Gas**  
**[www.sugas.com](http://www.sugas.com)**
- **Texas Gas Association**  
**[www.texasgas.com](http://www.texasgas.com)**

# Emergency Numbers if you Smell Gas

- **Emergency – 911**
- **Fire Department – 935-6434**
- **Dumas Central Dispatch – 935-2151**
- **City Office – 935-4101 ext. 101**
- **City Warehouse – 935-4707**



# HOW CAN YOU PREVENT GAS EMERGENCIES

- **Keep all appliances cleaned, properly vented and serviced regularly**
- **Make sure everyone in your family knows how to operate gas appliances and shut-off valves**
- **Don't use an open gas oven for heating your home or drying clothes**
- **Don't use or store gasoline, aerosols or other products with flammable vapors near gas appliances**
- **Whenever changing your furnace filter be sure to replace the compartment door**
- **Never cover fresh air vents that supply air to your gas appliances**
- **Have all gas line alterations and appliance repairs performed by a professional**
- **Before digging in your yard, be sure you know the location of underground gas lines. Call Dig Toss for a line locate – 1-800-344-8377**
- **Write your fire and police department phone numbers and our emergency service number in the front of your phone book**

**Anytime you suspect a gas leak or gas emergency call City Office or after hours call Dumas Central Dispatch. They're experts at their job, and respond to emergency calls**

# HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO REMEMBER



- Natural Gas is colorless and odorless
- A distinctive pungent odor is added to the gas so that you can smell a leak immediately.

# Gas Appliances

- Correctly installed, maintained and vented to the outside
- Inspected by qualified service person
- Check chimney and furnace flue for proper venting
- Should be done annually

# In Case of Emergency

- If you smell gas and can't find the source immediately, go to a neighbor's house and call the gas company
- If the odor is not strong, open the doors and windows for ventilation
- If the odor is strong and persists, get everyone out of the house immediately
- Don't use a telephone, switch a light on or off, or light a match if you smell gas
- Don't try to relight a gas furnace, water heater, or range until you are sure there's no more smell of gas.

# SAFETY IS MAINTAINED DURING OPERATION



Once a pipeline is built, tested and placed in service, The City of Dumas controls and monitors the safety of its system in several ways, including:

- [posting markers](#) with emergency telephone numbers along our rights of way to let the public know underground pipelines are in the area;
- routinely patrolling our pipeline routes on the ground and from the air to inspect and identify potential problems and assist in preventing third-party excavation damage;
- performing regular inspection and maintenance of facilities, including leak surveys and safety-device checks on valves and compressor stations;
- meeting periodically with state and local emergency officials to review accident-prevention and emergency-response procedures;
- monitoring our system using computers and remote telemetry equipment that detects changes in pressure or flow that might indicate problems. In many cases, such equipment also allows operators to quickly activate emergency shut-down procedures and to dispatch emergency crews in case of a leak, accident or other problem.

# **GAS DEPARTMENT**

**The Gas Department is responsible for getting gas from the City Gate to the customers in a safe manner. The City of Dumas has two gas wells, which supplies about 30% of our gas; the other 70% is purchased from other sources.**

**The Gas Department takes care of the wells and compressors. They also take care of the distribution system that includes gas mains, customer service taps, valves, meters, and line replacement.**

**One of the most important duties of the gas department is responding to a gas leak when a customer smells gas inside or even outside of the home. Therefore, it is important that our citizens let us know when they think they smell gas. The gas department will respond immediately, and investigate the situation to determine if there is a problem. If the leak is on the customer piping they will be informed to contact a plumber.**

**If a resident receives gas from the City of Dumas they are responsible for the maintenance and ownership of his/her gas service line from his/her building to the meter.**

**Anytime a customer suspects that he/she may have a gas problem, the customer should contact the City of Dumas Business Office at 935-4101 ext. 101 or the City of Dumas Warehouse at 935-4707.**

**If the gas problem is after regular working hours or on a holiday or weekend the Moore County Sheriffs Department should be contacted at 935-2151. They will contact the appropriate City Personnel, and the problem will be addressed immediately.**

**Every year the Gas system is audited by the RRC and they have had no violations in the past 4 years.**

# Residential Savings - Natural Gas vs. Electric

- **Natural gas is generally less costly, more efficient and more environmentally friendly than electricity, because most of the electricity used in the United States is generated at power plants fueled by coal. A home that uses natural gas for heating, water heating, clothes drying and cooking contributes 60 percent less carbon dioxide to the atmosphere than an all-electric home whose power is generated at a coal-fired power plant. The higher efficiency and lower price of natural gas result in annual energy bills that are roughly 30 to 55 percent lower than the comparable all electric home energy bills.**

## Environmental Comparisons

The relative cleanliness of natural gas, in conjunction with its high efficiency, results in numerous environmental benefits compared with electric systems, including far lower emission levels of air pollutants, carbon dioxide and solid wastes such as sludge and ash.

For example, by selecting a water heater fueled with natural gas instead of electricity, a homeowner can help limit emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). That's because a water heater fueled with electricity from a coal-fired power plant contributes four times more CO<sub>2</sub> to the environment than a similar natural gas unit.

**By converting existing natural gas, fuel oil or electric heating systems to new, efficient gas heating equipment, homeowners can cut CO2 emissions by up to 75 percent in some cases or by 70,200 pounds per year from a large home in a cold climate, according to the American Gas Association (AGA) analysis.**

**By using natural gas hearth equipment, instead of a wood-burning fireplace or stove, homeowners can help improve air quality. Natural gas hearth equipment emits no smoke or particulate matter. The convenience and cleanliness of natural gas hearth products have contributed to the popularity of the amenity: more than a quarter of all new fireplaces in the United States burn natural gas.**

**By choosing to cool their homes with natural gas instead of electricity during summer months, consumers can help reduce peak demand on electric utilities, which are often forced to turn to less efficient technologies to avoid brownouts or service disruptions.**

**The AGA study was based on the heating needs of new homes in two climate regions with different heating loads, under the assumption that electricity is provided by a fossil fuel mix (generation by coal, natural gas and oil) currently used in those regions. The analysis did not take into account electricity generated by nuclear, hydroelectric or renewable energy sources, as the contribution to the overall mix from these sources in the near-term to meet new demand will be minimal.**

# Gas Conservation Tips

It is important for you to remember that in addition to gas costs, **weather dramatically affects natural gas bills.**

When temperatures drop, you use more fuel to heat your home and business, and energy conservation becomes very important.

# By following a few easy tips, you can Save Money on your gas bill:

- **Read your gas meter and monitor your gas usage. By reading the meter, you can gauge how fast you are using gas and can make adjustments to stay within budget.**
- **Keep a log of your weekly consumption.**
- **Adjust your gas usage. For example, if halfway into the month you are nearing your budget limit for gas, you can experiment with lower gas heating thermostat settings to see if comfort is adequate while reducing gas usage.**
- **Have your gas furnace cleaned and serviced by a professional for greater efficiency.**
- **Clean or replace air filters on heating or cooling systems.**

- **Set back your thermostat by 5 or 10 degrees when sleeping or when your house is empty for four hours or longer.**
- **Set the thermostat control setting for your furnace no higher than 68 degrees F during the heating season.**
- **Set your water heater temperature to 120 degrees F. or to the “warm” setting.**
- **Set your water heater temperature control to the pilot position when your home is vacant for two days or longer.**
- **Place nonflammable insulation or nonflammable pliable materials in gaps around pipes, ducts, fans or other items that enter the attic or basement from a conditioned space.**

- Close dampers on unused fireplaces. If not used for long periods, add insulating material around perimeter of damper.
- Add insulation to attic or basement doors or access panels.
- Caulk or tape any leak in ductwork of cooling or heating systems.
- Tighten or plug leaking joints in hot water or steam pipes.
- Raise shades to allow sunlight to enter your home during the day. Close shades on overcast days and at night when no warm sunlight is shining.



# How to Read My Meter

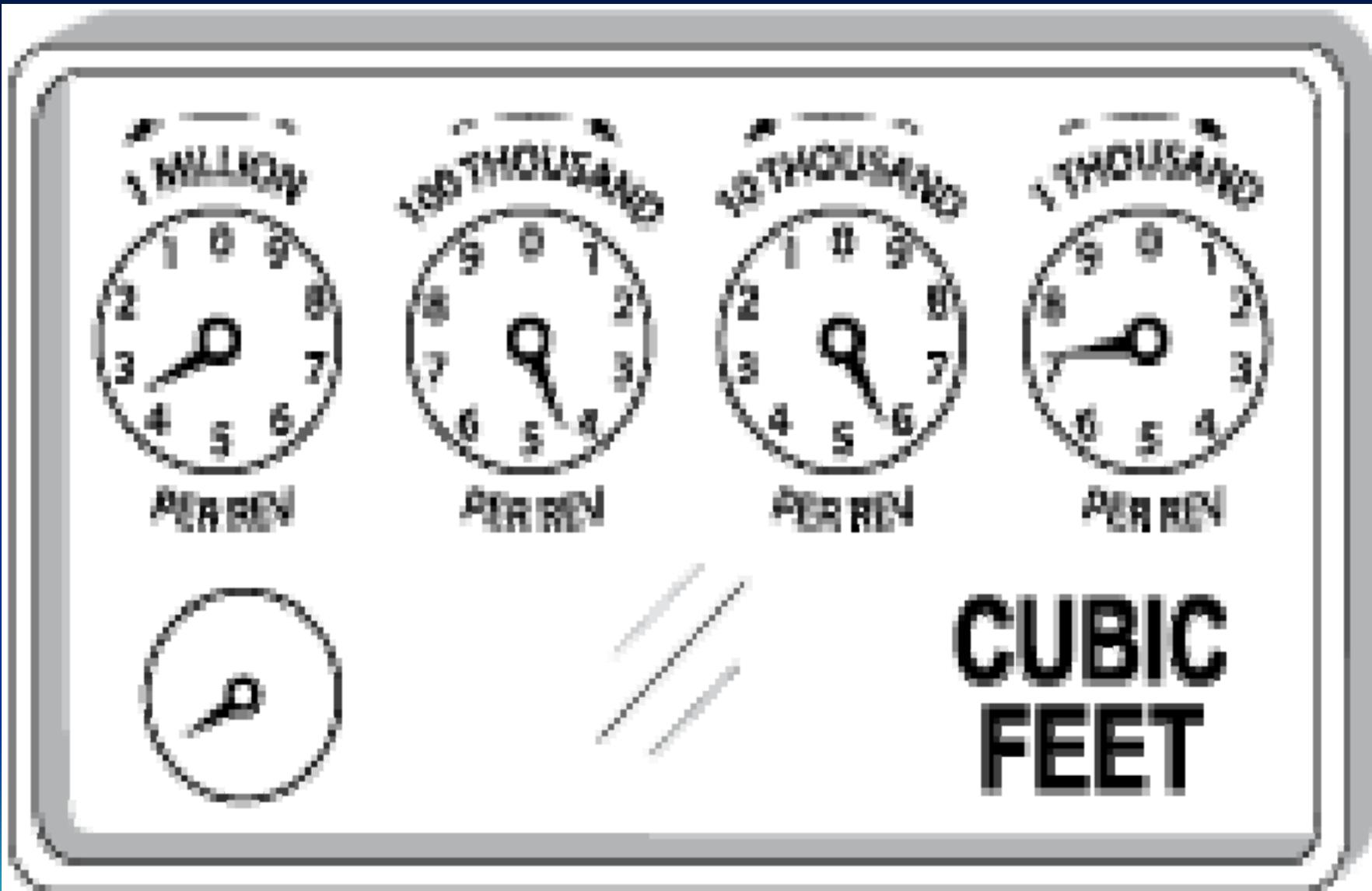
We encourage you to check the meter readings on your gas bill should you have questions about your gas usage.

# About the Gas Meter

The typical gas meter has three to six dials on the face with a needle or "hand" on each dial. The smallest dial is a test dial and is not included in the actual reading. The remaining dials are divided into ten segments. The illustration a four-dial meter.

The reading for the meter pictured on next slide is 3457.

The arrow above each dial indicates which direction the hand is moving.



# Reading the Gas Meter

Start with the dial on the left and read the number the hand has just passed. When the hand is between numbers, always use the smaller number.

Gas usage is determined by taking sequential readings. To find out how much natural gas you used since the last time your meter was read, subtract the **previous** reading from the **present** reading shown on your gas bill.

# Bill Detail

## Bill Detail

METER READINGS PREVIOUS	-	PRESENT	PRESSURE ADJUSTMENT	ENERGY USE CCF
00004		00012		8

**B**                      **A**                      **C**

$12 - 4 = 8$

Gas usage in this example is  $A - B = C$ , or 8 CCF.

