

# WHAT'S THAT SMELL?

**Smell gas. Act fast.** These are the words you need to remember when experiencing a natural gas leak. But how do you know if there might be a leak?

**There are three signs that there might be a gas leak:**



**Smell**—Natural gas smells like rotten eggs! Natural gas doesn't actually have an odor. The rotten egg scent comes from a chemical that's added to natural gas to help people detect it.



**See**—A white cloud, mist, or fog might appear.



**Hear**—A gas leak can create a hissing, whistling, or roaring sound.

Kids should tell a trusted grown-up right away if they think they smell, see, or hear gas inside or outside. Then the grown-up should get everyone out of the house or area, and away from the possible leak. When everyone is safe, the grown-up should call 911 or their gas company (Con Edison or National Grid). Report it, don't ignore it.

There are also things you should **not** do if you smell gas or suspect a leak. You should not turn on or off appliances or light switches. You should not use your phone near the gas smell. These things could create a spark that could cause an explosion.

## Test Your Knowledge

For questions 1 to 3, underline the answer in the passage.

1. What does natural gas smell like?
2. What are visual signs of a natural gas leak?
3. What can a natural gas leak sound like?
4. What steps should you follow when you think there's a gas leak?

**Circle the correct answer.**

- A. Tell a grown-up, leave immediately without turning any appliances on or off, and then have the grown-up call 911 or the gas company when you are safely away from the leak.
  - B. Call 911, turn off all the lights, and then get away from the smell.
  - C. Assume someone else will report it and continue what you're doing.
5. What are the DOs and DON'Ts when you think you smell gas?

**Circle the DOs and cross out the DON'Ts.**

Call 911 or the gas company.

Tell a grown-up.

Light a match.

Turn off the lights.

Get away from the odor.

Ring the doorbell.

