

An Important Message About Gas Safety

Natural gas is delivered to the university from Ameren IP through an underground piping system. It is used to provide fuel for clean, efficient heat to all campus buildings and residence halls. It is also used for hot water and food preparation.

Overview of Hazards of Pipeline and Prevention Measures Used

The hazards associated with the pipeline include fires, explosions, leakage, damage to the facility and loss of service. In order to prevent these incidents, the pipeline is maintained and inspected according to state and federal regulations. Facilities employees receive ongoing training to ensure the continued safe transport of natural gas to the campus.

In order to prevent damage to the pipeline due to construction excavations, SIUE participates in the one-call system known as JULIE. Within 2 days of a call for a planned excavation, SIUE will mark the location of underground gas as well as other utility lines.

Recognizing and Responding to Gas Leaks

Pure natural gas is colorless and odorless. Before gas is delivered to the SIUE campus, an odorant called mercaptan is added to give gas its distinctive odor so you can smell a leak immediately. The odorant makes the gas smell like sulphur or rotten eggs.

If you smell a faint odor in any campus building, notify Facilities Management at 618-650-3711. If the gas odor is strong and/or you hear a hissing or leaking sound, you should leave the building immediately.

If the odor is strong:

- Do not use telephones, cell phones, computers or elevators.
- Do not smoke, use a lighter, match or open flame.
- Do not operate vehicles near where the leaking gas could be.
- Do not re-enter the building to retrieve personal effects.

If you smell a strong gas smell in the air outside or you see or hear unusual occurrences such as: high-pitched whistle or hissing sound, blowing dust, dead vegetation in a normally green area or ground fires, you may be observing signs of a leak in a natural gas line. Always use caution near an outdoor gas leak and recognize the possible hazards such as fire, ignition or explosion.

In these conditions:

- Do not use any device or equipment that may generate a spark or flame.
- Do not start up or shut down motor vehicles or electrical equipment.
- Do not use a telephone or cell phone in or near the area.