

Natural gas and propane have become a necessity in our modern-day living. These fuels can be dangerous if not respected and used properly. Follow these safety tips to avoid the risk of fire, explosion or asphyxiation.

Uncapped gas lines

- Inspect your home for uncapped gas lines.
- Follow the gas line from the gas meter or propane container into your home; make sure the gas line or any branch lines are connected to an appliance.
- A gas line not connected to an appliance should end with a plugged valve (in the off position) or a steel cap.
- If you detect a gas odor: (rotten egg smell)
 - Do not activate any electric switches.
 - Immediately vacate the premises, leaving the door open behind you.
 - Once off the premises, contact your local natural gas or propane supplier for assistance.

General gas appliance safety

- Only a certified gasfitter should install, repair or remove gas appliances.
- Have all your gas appliances such as a furnace, water heater, stove and fireplace serviced annually.
- If the pilot light on a gas appliance goes out, follow the manufacturer's instructions to re-light the appliance and if you require assistance contact your local gas utility, or a certified gasfitter.
- Keep the area around your furnace and water heater clear of debris, combustible materials such as furniture and trash may ignite causing a fire.
- Do not use or store flammable cleaning liquids near gas appliances, vapours can drift towards the appliance causing an explosion and fire.
- Never use gasoline as a cleaning agent.

Carbon monoxide

- Fuel-burning appliances need a supply of fresh air and proper ventilation to operate properly.
- Without fresh air and ventilation fuel-burning appliances may produce poisonous carbon monoxide gas that can lead to asphyxiation, make sure to keep the area around these appliances clear.
- Check that all appliances have a source of fresh air and a vent to the outside of the building.

How to check for leaks

- Brush on a half liquid soap and half water solution over all connections in the piping and tubing system, valves, and appliance connections.
- Bubbles will form if there is a leak.
- If a leak is detected, mark the location and contact a certified gasfitter to initiate the necessary repairs.

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For more information, please call Municipal Affairs, Safety Services at 1-866-421-6929 or visit www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca