

**PREPAREDNESS
EFFORTS...
WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

The Fort Worth - Tarrant County Office of Emergency Management develops plans which are exercised for the numerous hazards that may occur within our area. This type of preparedness is termed as "All-Hazards Preparedness". As we train and prepare for possible emergencies, it is imperative that our citizens do the same. Together we can make our community safer!

Here are some preparedness efforts you and your family can begin doing today for All-Hazards Preparedness:

1. **Develop a Personal Safety Plan!**
2. **Create a Disaster Supply Kit!**
3. **Know Your Hazards!**

IF YOU SUSPECT A LEAK:

DO:

- Leave the area immediately on foot;
- Warn others in the area, if present;
- Refrain from any activities that could cause heat or sparks;
- Leave area before attempting to utilize cellular telephones; and
- Notify 911 once you have reached safety

DON'T:

- Light a match, start an engine, or switch electrical equipment (including lights) on or off;
- Attempt to use a cell phone until you have left the area;
- Drive into a vapor cloud; or
- Make contact with any escaping material; some products may be toxic or corrosive.

TARRANT COUNTY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

1000 Throckmorton Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102
Phone: 817-392-6170
Fax: 817-392-6180
E-mail: oem@fortworthgov.org
Web: www.tarrantcountylepc.com



Gas Leak: Result of Construction Efforts



TARRANT COUNTY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

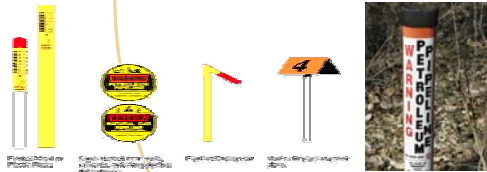
**GAS WELL
&
PIPELINE SAFETY**

**PREPARING OUR CITIZENS
FOR ALL HAZARDS**

817-392-6170 PHONE
OEM@FORTWORTHGOV.ORG
WWW.TARRANTCOUNTYLEPC.COM

GAS WELL & PIPELINE SAFETY

Pipelines currently run through most of our communities. Pipelines are one of the least visible hazards because they are typically buried below ground. Signs indicating a pipeline's location are placed frequently along the path of the pipeline. These signs help prevent accidents such as breakage during digging processes.



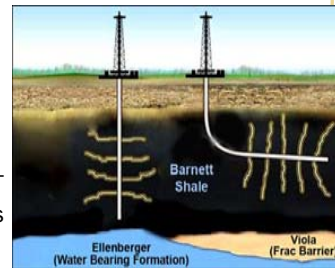
In more recent years, geologists discovered the Barnett Shale: a geological formation that some experts have suggested may be the largest onshore natural gas field in the United States. The Barnett Shale provided an additional resource for natural gas. Soon after, drilling began in the Barnett Shale to harvest the gas for use in our daily lives. As the drilling continues and additional wells are created, additional pipelines will also be created to transfer the gas from the well site to the distribution point.

Pipelines and gas well sites pose many of the same hazards. For that reason, they require many of the same preparedness measures and response actions. For the residents of these areas, it is important to know and understand the preparedness measures and more importantly, to practice them.



WHAT IS THE BARNETT SHALE?

The Barnett Shale contains an estimated 26 trillion cubic feet of gas within a 15-county area. Geologists say that about 330 million years ago during the Mississippian Period, almost 100 million years before the age of the dinosaurs, a large shallow sea included what is now the Fort Worth Basin where radiolarian and other one-celled animals lived and died and were mixed with sediment and plant material. Over millions of years the organic material was buried, heated, and converted to the hydrocarbons we call crude oil and natural gas.



This layer of organically rich sediment is now called the Barnett Shale, which averages 500 feet thick and lies about 1.5 miles below the surface.

WHAT IF THERE IS AN ACCIDENT?

Due to many variables that may factor into a gas well or pipeline incident response, evacuation routes and shelters are not publicized in advance. As emergency personnel arrive on-scene, the proper response actions are determined and then provided to the public. The actions are based on the situation and variables at the time. During non-emergency times, first responders develop possible scenarios and practice their response to ensure effectiveness and efficiency during an actual event.

The recommended actions may be disseminated to the public through:

1. Sounding the Outdoor Warning System;
2. Local Television and/or Radio Stations;
3. The NOAA All-Hazard Radio; or
4. Emergency personnel going door-to-door in the affected area to make notification.

Every so often the pressure inside well heads may accumulate to the point that pressure must be released. Pressure release valves are built into these systems to allow for the release of pressure without an explosion. If a sudden, controlled flare above the well head occurs, it is possibly releasing enough pressure to return to normal operations.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

There is typically little or no warning with incidents involving gas wells and/or pipelines. Because of this it is critical that citizens know what to do in the event of an emergency. Prior to an event you should:

- Become familiar with gas well sites and pipelines in and around your community.
- Familiarize yourself with the roads leading in and out of your neighborhood and surrounding communities.
- Have a plan for you and your family (including a meeting point, and contact person outside of your neighborhood where you can reunite, if separated).
- Listen and follow instructions given by first responders. They are trained for these types of events.