

## 2017-203 Natural Gas Emergencies



# Westbrook Fire & Rescue Department

## Standard Operating Procedure

|                               |                                                                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Section: Emergency Operations | TOPIC: Natural Gas Emergencies                                              |
| NUMBER: 2017-203              | ISSUE DATE: November 20, 2017                                               |
|                               | REVISED DATE: November 20, 2017                                             |
| POLICY REFERENCES:            | APPROVED BY:<br><br><hr/> <p>Andrew R. Turcotte<br/>Chief of Department</p> |

### Purpose:

To provide a written guide for emergency personnel to follow when responding to natural gas emergencies.

### Scope:

To establish a written emergency guide for natural gas emergencies.

### Policy:

## SIZE-UP / ASSESSMENT OF CONDITIONS

- Notify **Unitil Natural Gas** as soon as possible
- Maintain a safe distance – up wind
- Identify Gas – If Propane, request vendor response and refer to propane SOP
- Determine type of leak
  1. Is it venting entirely to atmosphere?
  2. Is it contained in or infiltrating into other structure(s)?
  3. Beware of subterranean migration of gas into structures
  4. Is there a need to evacuate surrounding buildings?
  5. Consider contacting other utilities as needed such as CMP

## SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS AND CHECKLIST

- Isolate and deny entry
- Ensure ALL personnel are using full PPE with SCBA as warranted
- Evacuate immediate area appropriate to size and type of incident
- Eliminate potential ignition sources including isolating power to the area if warranted
- Request “desk box” assignment for suspected gas in a structure
- Do not use potential ignition sources – switches, breakers, fire alarms, doorbells, ect

- Request appropriate power company for any gas in a structure
  - i. Power should be cut at pole or transformer
- Follow IDLH protocol, 2-in / 2-out, provide for RIT, use ISO
- Do not extinguish ignited leaks

## **OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES**

- Provide a staffed, charged hose line for known leaks
- Monitor for gas at garages and crawl spaces first – without making entry if possible
  - i. Sample air from lower elevations to higher elevations
- DO NOT make entry with 10% LEL or above
- Residential or commercial structures with single meter – turn off gas at the meter
- Industrial or commercial occupancy with multiple meters – coordinate with facility and Unitil
- After power is cut and leak is stopped – determine ventilation plan and do not make entry until LEL is below 10%
- Ventilate from the highest point to the lowest point