

Universal response tactics for LNG

When you arrive at an LNG incident scene, follow these steps:

Parking

1. **Approach cautiously and assume a defensive position.** Stage apparatus upwind and observe the situation from a distal location – typically 300 to 1000 feet (90 to 300 meters) depending on the size and magnitude of the incident.
2. **Park at least 300 feet away from any LNG spill or vapor cloud.** The presence of the white moisture cloud will be a good indicator of a liquid leak. Do not enter the incident area until you have determined the extent of the situation, and never enter the vapor cloud.
3. **Once you have evaluated the situation, establish a strong formal unified command and control structure that includes National Grid personnel.** Your use of the incident command system is essential to safe operations at the emergency scene

Evacuation

1. **Utilize a CGI to determine if there is a leak and establish operating zones. Secure the area with caution tape and establish a safe perimeter.** Reroute pedestrian and vehicular traffic if necessary.
2. **Unless an immediate threat to life exists, focus on evacuation and containment of the LNG, and protect exposures.** Consult the DOT Emergency Response Guidebook for appropriate evacuation distances and actions. LNG carries a UN placard number of 1972; this identifier refers you to Guide 115.

Operational Tactics

1. **Eliminate potential ignition sources,** such as vehicle engines, flame-producing devices and anything that could produce sparks. Intrinsically safe equipment should be used. Consult with National Grid and/or the local electric utility regarding shutting off electricity in the immediate area.
2. **If you must approach the incident,** do so with the minimum amount of personnel, each wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).
3. **Monitor the atmosphere,** using multiple CGIs at various heights to determine the concentration, location and movement of LNG vapors.
4. **Prepare for long-term operations,** considering resource needs and the ability to secure a reliable water supply to support offensive operations should they become necessary.
5. **If LNG vapors have ignited, the general rule is to let it burn.** If a life safety situation exists and/or the fire will escalate the incident, your incident commander may consider more offensive measures.