



Firefighter do's and don't's



National Grid recommends that firefighters carefully follow the guidelines below when responding to natural gas incidents.

✓ Do	⊘ Don't
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep National Grid informed of any developments through the fire department dispatcher.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't enter buildings without wearing personal protective equipment and positive pressure SCBA.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consult with National Grid representatives upon arrival at the incident scene.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't allow unnecessary or unauthorized personnel to enter buildings where gas odors are present.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immediately evacuate per DOT Emergency Response Guide and barricade or rope off the area, rerouting traffic and pedestrians if necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't try to extinguish burning gas.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If there is a strong gas odor, evacuate buildings and leave them closed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't operate any gas valves, other than the service shut-off valve before the meter, or appliance piping valves.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instruct occupants not to turn any electrical equipment on or off. This includes lights, switches, motors, circuit breakers and any battery-powered devices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't open any gas valve that has been shut off.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call the fire department dispatcher if the situation warrants a discontinuation of electric service to a building.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't pull any electric meters or attempt to disconnect the overhead electric service. Leave this to National Grid personnel.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check other buildings in the surrounding area for the presence of gas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If there is a street leak, don't park vehicles nearby with the engine running.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evacuate buildings and eliminate any possible ignition sources before attempting to ventilate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't park in front of buildings where a gas leak is suspected.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not park directly over manhole covers or near storm sewer grates.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't ventilate a building without first coordinating with National Grid and verifying gas has been shut off and ignition sources have been eliminated.