



Universal response tactics for natural gas



When you arrive at a natural gas incident scene, follow these steps:

- 1. Approach cautiously.** Stage apparatus upwind, out of the path of the leak and a safe distance away (typically 50 to 200 feet, depending on the situation).
- 2. Park safely out of the collapse zone of involved structures,** and away from manhole covers and storm sewer grates.
- 3. Secure the area with caution tape.** Reroute traffic if necessary.
- 4. Evacuate at least 100 meters (330 feet) in all directions.** For larger leaks, consider initial downwind evacuation for at least 800 meters (1/2 mile). The incident commander will consult with a National Grid emergency representative and make the final determination of the extent of the evacuation.
- 5. Never enter a manhole, sewer** or any other type of underground vault.
- 6. Eliminate any potential sources of ignition,** such as vehicle engines, flame-producing devices and anything that could produce sparks. Use intrinsically safe radios and flashlights.
- 7. If you must approach the incident,** do so with the minimum amount of personnel, each wearing full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).
- 8. Monitor the atmosphere,** using multiple monitors.