

Fire response

Take the following precautions when responding to a natural gas fire:

- 1. First and foremost, let it burn!** Burning gas actually helps you locate the source of a leak. While the fire is burning, you know where the hazard is. Allow the gas to burn until the source can be turned off. When the gas supply is depleted, the fire will extinguish itself.
- 2. Use water to cool combustible exposures.** Although you always want to avoid spraying water at the point where natural gas is being released, a fog spray may be used to cool combustible exposures and protect the rescue team. You may also use multiple overlapping fog streams to direct the body of the fire and assist in rescue operations. In all cases, be sure you don't fill excavations with water, or spray water into gas lines.
- 3. You may also use water to help you access a service valve to shut off the gas supply when the fire is downstream of the valve.** Water can often be used to allow access to these valves without extinguishing the fire. Use multiple overlapping hose streams set on a fog pattern.
- 4. ONLY shut off gas at the service valve before the meter,** or the appliance supply line. Do not attempt to shut off gas pipeline main valves. Do not close curb valves unless you have been properly trained in curb valve operation.

Throughout the fire response, consult with the gas provider emergency representative whenever possible. Since every incident is different, gas provider representatives can provide important guidance on proper procedures.