

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 the gas provider's 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 the gas provider 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 and asphyxiation risks.
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.