



ENERGY DEPARTMENT

The City of Kings Mountain owns and operates a natural gas system that provides service to industrial, commercial, and residential customers in and around the city limits of Kings Mountain for use in manufacturing, space heating, water heating, and cooking.

Kings Mountain's Natural gas pipelines quietly, reliably and efficiently deliver natural gas throughout the City for domestic and industrial use. As part of the greater industry's 2.3 million miles of natural gas and liquid pipelines, Kings Mountain operates natural gas distribution and transmission pipelines that safely deliver large quantities of energy to fuel the economy and keep us warm every day. Pipelines are the safest and most cost effective way of delivering energy in existence. The City of Kings Mountain would like to inform residents about the accident prevention efforts that are undertaken to maintain the excellent pipeline safety record of the industry. Kings Mountain inspects mains and services that are excavated as well as monitors above-ground piping for corrosion. We apply and monitor corrosion prevention measures to prevent steel from deteriorating below ground and regularly patrol surface conditions for hazards to the pipelines. We also use leak detection equipment that can detect the tiniest quantity of gas to determine whether a leak may exist below ground. Equipment is inspected and maintained regularly as well, including below ground emergency valves.

In its 'natural' state, natural gas is colorless and odorless. The natural gas received by the City of Kings Mountain for its distribution system is mixed with an odorant, so it is easier to recognize a natural gas pipeline release. The odorant added to the natural gas gives the gas a distinctive smell, often described as "rotten egg". The City monitors the existence of this odorant to ensure its presence.

Accidental releases of gas do occasionally occur, and in addition to the distinctive smell, other indications of a release may be a hissing sound, roaring sound, or blowing of dirt or dust. Persistent bubbles in water or pools of liquid with possible bubbling can also indicate a pipeline leak. If you smell, see or hear any indications of a possible natural gas leak, please call the City of Kings Mountain's Natural Gas Division at 704-734-4516 or emergency officials at 911 immediately.

If there is an unintended release of gas, the main hazard is the chance of fire or explosion. If you have a gas release situation, immediately walk away, warning others to stay away or leave the area. Extinguish all sources of ignition such as, open flames, cell phones, pagers, motor vehicles or any other item that may cause a spark or static discharge. From a safe location contact the City of Kings Mountain at the number listed above or emergency officials.

The leading cause of accidental releases of gas is due to damage of a below ground line by someone performing excavation or earth moving. The "ONE-CALL" system was setup to help prevent this hazard. If you dig, please contact NC One-Call Center toll-free at 811 or log on to the website <http://www.nc811.org> to request a location of underground utilities. North Carolina STATE LAW requires that excavators give **at least a 3-Day Notice** (3 full working days not including the day of the call) prior to excavation.

If you have any other questions or concerns about the City's natural gas system, pipeline safety, or how to recognize or report a pipeline leak please give our office a call at 704-734-4516 between 7:30 am and 4:00 pm.

Sincerely,
Wayne Ledbetter
Energy Services Director
City of Kings Mountain, NC