

Hello everybody,

As you may have heard, there have been reports of suspected natural gas and propane leaks in a few state buildings recently. Some of these reports turned out to be false alarms, others were indeed legitimate. No harm has come to employees in any of these events thanks to swift and appropriate actions taken by those involved, and we have no reason to assume these events are anything more than a series of coincidences. Nevertheless, these incidents remind us that natural gas and propane leaks are a serious issue.

My message to you today is: **if you think you smell natural gas or propane, please follow these steps to ensure the safest evacuation of the building:**

- 1) **Do not use lights, appliances, phones, elevators, or fire alarms.** These devices can cause an explosion or fire if a spark, flame, or other changes occur.
- 2) **Evacuate the area.**
- 3) **Call 911 (and Building Control if you are in a state facility at 287-4154)**
- 4) **Do not go back into the building until authorities say it is safe to do so.**

No matter what the situation, safety is our highest priority. If you have any further questions or concerns about what to do in the event of a possible gas leak, please visit this [website](#) or contact your supervisor.

Rest assured, we are being proactive in helping prevent both propane and natural gas leaks. Besides our continued constant surveillance of natural gas levels, we are hiring Maine Natural Gas and Summit Natural Gas, the companies who supply most state buildings that use natural gas, to check all natural gas connections.

Additionally, the Property Management Division will be manually checking all building interiors where propane is used.

I hope you find this information helpful. If you have questions or concerns, please call the Property Management Division at 287-4155 or e-mail janice.e.lareau@maine.gov

Sincerely,

Kirsten LC Figueroa

Commissioner

Department of Administrative and Financial Services