



# Natural Gas Smells Bad for a Good Reason

In its natural state, natural gas is odorless and colorless. For easy detection, Montana-Dakota injects an odorant called mercaptan into the gas before it is inserted into the distribution system. Mercaptan gives off a foul smell, reminiscent of rotten eggs or sulfur.



**MONTANA-DAKOTA**  
UTILITIES CO.

*A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.*

*In the Community to Serve*

**1-800-638-3278**  
**montana-dakota.com**



**Scratch this egg with your fingernail  
and sniff the gas odor.**

## **What to do in case of a natural gas leak**

A natural gas leak can be dangerous because it increases the risk of fire or explosion. Here are safety rules to follow if you smell the strong odor of mercaptan.

### **DON'T**

- Turn on or turn off any lights or electrical switches, or unplug appliances.
- Smoke or use lighters, matches or other open flames.
- Turn on or off any battery-powered, rechargeable or electrical device, including phones, garage door openers, radios, TVs, computers or any device that could create a spark.
- Use telephones of any type, including cordless, cell or landline.

### **DO**

- Have occupants exit the building immediately.
- If you are outside, leave the area immediately.
- Go to another place and call Montana-Dakota at 1-800-638-3278.
- Keep away until given the “all clear” from a gas company employee or emergency official.