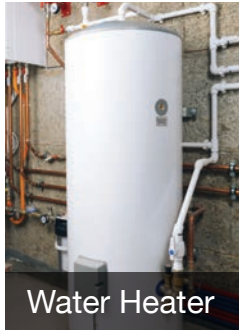


ENERGY SAFE KIDS CHALLENGE



ABOUT NATURAL GAS

There are many appliances that use natural gas; furnaces, water heaters, stoves, outdoor grills and gas fireplaces. These appliances heat our homes and businesses, heat water for bathing and recreation and cook our food. Every family should know how to safely use these appliances and have them regularly inspected and maintained.



Water Heater



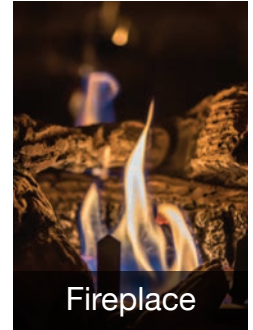
Furnace



Stove



Grill



Fireplace

A natural gas meter allows natural gas to flow into houses, apartments and businesses for appliances. The meter lets you and the natural gas company know how much you have used. Natural gas equipment like meters and pipelines are very important and should be left alone.

Natural gas is a very safe energy source when properly used. However, like all sources of energy, it can be potentially dangerous. Because natural gas is odorless and colorless, the chemical mercaptan is added to give it a nasty smell. This odor helps individuals identify natural gas leaks that require immediate action.



Natural Gas Meter

PLAY IT SAFE: INSIDE AND OUTSIDE

INSIDE

1. Store old boxes, papers, paint cans or aerosol cans **AWAY** from your stove, furnace or water heater as they can catch fire.
2. Keep **AWAY** all items that block the airflow to natural gas appliances.
3. Hang or drape items **AWAY** from pipes to natural gas appliances as they can catch fire.

OUTSIDE

4. To be safe, play far **AWAY** from natural gas meters or pipelines.
5. Colorful flags mark the location of underground pipelines and other utilities and they need to be left alone. Call 811 before you dig to have an area marked with flags.



IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A NATURAL GAS LEAK, FOLLOW THESE IMPORTANT STEPS!

1. Stop what you are doing and leave the area immediately.
2. Do not touch or use anything electric on your way out — not even a light switch or telephone.
3. Tell an adult right away and call 911 and BGE from a safe distance. Do not try to fix the leak.
4. Do not return until a BGE employee says it is safe.

VISIT energysafekids.org/bge-naturalgas TO LEARN MORE ABOUT NATURAL GAS SAFETY.



USE YOUR NOSE:

Mercaptan is an additive BGE puts in natural gas to give it a rotten egg smell.



USE YOUR EARS:

Listen for hissing, blowing or roaring sounds of gas escaping.



USE YOUR EYES:

Look for dirt being blown into the air, dead plants or grass in an otherwise green area, fire coming from the ground or water bubbling or being blown into the air.

ABOUT CARBON MONOXIDE

If natural gas and oxygen are not properly balanced, incomplete burning of the gas will produce carbon monoxide which is an odorless, colorless and tasteless gas that is very toxic. Carbon monoxide can cause nausea, unconsciousness and even death.

SAFETY TIP

Make sure you and your family have carbon monoxide detectors installed in your living and sleeping areas.



ABOUT ELECTRICITY

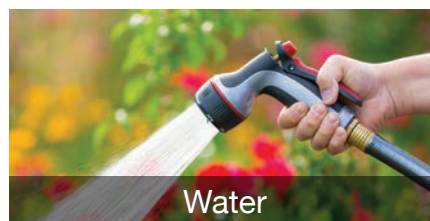
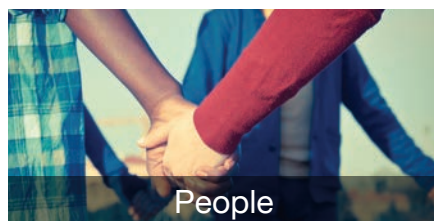
Electricity is one of the most widely used energy sources. We use electricity to do many jobs everyday from lighting, heating and cooling homes to powering televisions and computers. It is a powerful energy source and we must use it safely.



PROPERTIES OF ELECTRICITY

1. Electricity is always looking for a way to the ground.
2. Conductors help electricity **go** from one place to another. Your body, water and metals are conductors.
3. Insulators stop electricity from going from one place to another. Rubber, plastic and paper help **stop** electricity.

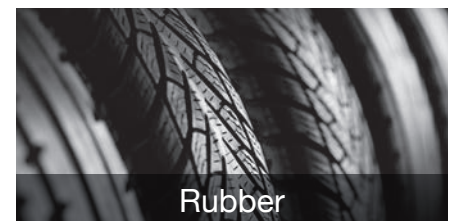
Examples of Conductors



BEWARE,
PEOPLE ARE
CONDUCTORS
OF ELECTRICITY.



Examples of Insulators



PLAY IT SAFE: INSIDE AND OUTSIDE

INSIDE

- Only pull on the rubber plug, not the cord, when you are unplugging something.
- Never put your finger, or anything else that does not belong, in an outlet.
- Do not overload outlets, extension cords or power strips.
- Never have flammable materials like clothing, bedding, furniture or rugs near space heaters or other appliances that generate heat.



Plug



Overloaded Outlet



Space Heater



Outlet



BE SAFE
AROUND
ELECTRICITY!



OUTSIDE

- Do not play around circuit breaker boxes, electric meters or pad mount transformers.
- Stay away from power lines and substations.
- Go inside when there is a storm.
- If you see downed power lines, stop, turn around and go the other way.



Pad Mount Transformers



Breaker Box



Downed Power Lines



Electric Meter

Color Code

FOR MARKING UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINES

The flag color tells you what type of pipeline or utility is buried underground. Cut out the flags and glue or tape them to the black lines (#1 through #8) that match up with correct description above.

Electric

Natural
Gas

Phone,
Cable TV

Water

Irrigation,
Reclaimed
Water

Sewer

Temporary
Markings

Proposed
Dig Site

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

1. Orange

2. Yellow

3. White

4. Red

5. Green

6. Purple

7. Blue

8. Pink



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Call 811 before you dig to avoid hitting underground gas and utility lines; it is free and it is the law.

ONLINE ACTIVITIES

Challenge your classmates and play the “Interactive Natural Gas Safety Poster” and the “Interactive Electric Safety Poster.”

Click on a number, read the information and answer a question. When you choose the right answer, a letter in the poster title will light up!

Be the first in your class to answer all 10 questions correctly. Get all of your family members to test their safety knowledge too.



Share fun videos, like “Call 811 Before You Dig” and “How Natural Gas Was Formed” with your family, while learning to be safe around natural gas and electricity.



Play the “Gas Dash” game and complete fun activities like “Safety Quest,” “Code It,” “Solve It,” “Electric Safety Crossword” or “Natural Gas Word Search.”

VISIT energysafekids.org/bge TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ENERGY SAFETY AND FOR ONLINE ACTIVITIES AND GAMES.

FOR SIGNS OF NATURAL GAS



USE YOUR NOSE:

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USE YOUR EARS:

Listen for hissing, blowing or roaring sounds of gas escaping.



USE YOUR EYES:

Look for dirt being blown into the air, dead plants or grass in an otherwise green area, fire coming from the ground or water bubbling or being blown into the air.

 Stay away from
downed power lines. 

For BGE contests, visit safetycentral.bge.com to find more information.

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National
Energy
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cultivating energy literacy

BGE

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