

The Increasing Need for Gas Safety

- **What are gas leaks?**
The leaking of natural gas.
- **Why is this bad?**
Gas leaks lead to a lack in vegetation, reducing the amount of surrounding arable land. This also increases the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere while triggering fires and explosions. These effects are detrimental to oneself as well as the environment.
- **How will one know if there is a natural gas leak?**
One can detect this problem if a rotting egg or skunk smell occurs; however, the gas is often odorless and colorless.
- **When do the gas leaks become harmful using Lower Explosive Limit (LEL)?¹**

Grade Number	Hazard	LEL Amounts
Grade 3	Non-Hazardous	<20% LEL in confined space
Grade 2	Non-Hazardous at time of detection but likely to become hazardous	Between 20%- 80% in a confined space
Grade 1	Hazardous	≥80% in confined space or in small substrates

*It is important to note that even if one location has a low LEL, there may still be a hazard. The detection is caused by a problem nearby that would have a much higher LEL level which has the potential to disperse.

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gas_leak