Natural gas safety

BGE is committed to providing safe and reliable energy. Sharing important information about natural gas safety with our customers is one important part of that commitment. Enclosed with this month’s Smart Energy News, you’ll find a Natural Gas Safety brochure that provides details about how to live and work safely around natural gas, pipelines and facilities. Check out this brochure to learn how to detect a natural gas leak by sight, sound and smell. The brochure also includes a scratch and sniff feature so you can get familiar with the smell of mercaptan, a safety additive BGE puts in odorless natural gas to give it a rotten egg smell. For additional information, visit BGE.COM/NaturalGasSafety. Need to report a leak? Call 877.778.7798.

BGE and WBAL-TV team up for Natural Gas Safety Hero Challenge

The Adventures of Captain Mercaptan®, a BGE Natural Gas Safety Hero Challenge encourages schools to use the entry kit at BGEGasHero.com to review natural gas safety concepts and STEAM-focused lesson plans to begin creating a safety comic strip featuring Captain Mercaptan. The top winning school will receive $10,000 in grant funding. As an added bonus—WBAL-TV meteorologist Ava Marie will be a celebrity judge of the contest entries. The submission phase is now open and runs through November 10.

Excess flow valves promote safety

An excess flow valve (EFV) can reduce the risk of a natural gas leak if significant damage to the outside service line occurs. Upon request, BGE will install an EFV on eligible lines. The cost to customers for this service is $1,100-$2,200. For more information call 800.685.0123.
**LEDs light the way to savings**

The long, sunny days of summer are behind us now, but you can still keep your lighting costs low. Switch your home’s lighting to energy-efficient LEDs—they last 15 times longer than incandescent bulbs and use up to 90% less energy.

Switch today and get instant discounts up to $3.50 on select ENERGY STAR® certified LEDs from the BGE Smart Energy Savers Program®, Find participating retailers at BGESmartEnergy.com.

**Meter safety is a shared responsibility**

Did you know: As a BGE customer, you’re responsible for ensuring that your meter can be accessed for meter readings and maintenance. Keeping your meter free of obstructions and checking the gas lines around it not only helps ensure accurate readings, but also contributes to natural gas safety.

Today, most meters can be read remotely, but even these meters need to be kept free of obstructions. Landscaping and structures around the meter may interfere with the electronic transmission. To keep your meter accessible, make sure there is a minimum of three feet of clear space around each meter.

While BGE owns and maintains the natural gas piping up to and including the gas meter, each gas customer is responsible for maintaining and monitoring all above-ground and buried pipes after the meter. If this piping is not maintained, it may corrode and leak. Be sure to periodically inspect buried gas piping located after the meter for leaks and corrosion and make any necessary repairs. Plumbers who are state-certified to work on gas piping can perform maintenance and repairs of gas fuel piping after the meter.

**Together, we can stop energy theft**

Energy theft is both dangerous and illegal. Tampering with utility lines, meters, or other BGE equipment in any way creates unsafe conditions for building occupants and neighbors. Call the BGE Energy Theft Hotline at 800.417.0294 if you suspect a gas or electricity theft. Your call will be kept confidential.