

Carbon monoxide safety

Carbon monoxide poisoning is usually caused by incomplete combustion and inadequate ventilation. Signs of buildup of this colorless, odorless gas include:

- Stuffy, stale or smelly air
- High humidity
- Soot from fireplaces or furnaces

The best treatment for overexposure is to get fresh air and immediate medical attention. To reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning, gas and oil appliance manufacturers recommend a yearly safety check-up. A qualified heating contractor can perform this service. Remember to change the batteries in your carbon monoxide detector routinely.



Three ways to detect a natural gas leak



USE YOUR NOSE

Mercaptan causes natural gas to smell like rotten eggs.



USE YOUR EARS

Natural gas escaping sounds like hissing, blowing, or roaring.



USE YOUR EYES

Dirt blowing, dead plants or grass in a lush area, flames coming from the ground, or water bubbling can all be visual signs of a leak.

SAFE ENERGY. SMART ENERGY.

Each of us can help ensure natural gas safety. Learning how to live and work safely around natural gas, pipelines and facilities is the first step. Gas is colorless, tasteless, and odorless in its natural state. Therefore, BGE puts mercaptan, a safety scent, in natural gas to give it a rotten egg odor and make it easier to detect.

IF YOU SUSPECT A NATURAL GAS LEAK

- Leave the area immediately and call BGE at **877.778.7798**.
- Emergency gas service calls are answered 24/7, and we will respond quickly at no cost to you.
- Don't use matches, or turn anything on, even a cell phone.

Even homes that don't use gas can experience gas leaks from outdoors. For more information on natural gas safety and BGE's education initiatives, visit **BGE.COM/GasSafety**.

Captain Mercaptan Natural Gas Safety Hero Winners

Every school that participated in BGE's Captain Mercaptan Natural Gas Safety Hero Challenge was a winner in education, arts, and safety. We commend your hard work and creativity.

The top 2019 winners are:

- **\$10,000 BGE Captain's Choice Award**
Fountain Green Elementary School
- **\$5,000 BGE Hero Awards**
St. Michael-St. Clement School, The Mount Washington School, North Bend Elementary School, Perry Hall Christian School and Immaculate Conception School
- **BGE Rock the Vote Award** St. Joseph School - Fullerton



A special thank you to celebrity judge, WBAL-TV's meteorologist, Ava Marie!



BGE HONORS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This February, we honor the achievements and challenges of the past while looking ahead to a brighter future for all. BGE is dedicated to creating a corporate culture that fosters diversity and inclusion. From prioritizing diverse suppliers to creating robust professional development opportunities for every employee, we strive for a thriving workforce that reflects our communities.

EmPOWER MARYLAND

Powering energy savings

Through the BGE Smart Energy Savers Program®, customers can take advantage of bill credits, rebates, and discounts for energy efficient steps they take in their home. The program, made possible by the EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act, helps customers use less energy, protects our environment, and reduces the need for new power plants, all the while keeping costs of electricity down for everyone.

These programs are funded through the EmPOWER Maryland surcharge included on all residential customers' BGE bills. The surcharge (effective January 1, 2020) averages about \$7.13 a month* for an average home for electricity customers and \$2.53 a month** for natural gas customers. Customers can offset the electric charge through simple energy efficiency measures, such as signing up for a Quick Home Energy Check-up at no additional cost, taking advantage of appliance rebates to save \$50-\$500 on a new ENERGY STAR® certified appliance, or making small changes to the way you use energy. For more information, visit BGESmartEnergy.com.

*based on 0.825 cents per kWh for a home that uses 864 kWh per month.

**based on 4.52 cents per therm rate for a home that uses 56 therms per month.