

THE WIREGRASS FARMER

Serving Turner County Since 1902

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Ashburn, GA 31714

Natural gas awareness campaign launched

Chairman H. Doug Everett announced recently that the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) is launching a statewide natural gas safety and awareness campaign designed to educate the public about precautions and actions to take when natural gas odors are detected in the home, workplace, or in the environment.

Over the past several years, the number of natural-gas-related injuries in Georgia has risen significantly, primarily due to the fact that most Georgians do not know the proper steps to take when they smell natural gas.

The City of Ashburn is participating in the Georgia PSC's statewide awareness campaign, featuring "Skunk Sniffy" and the safety message "Smell Gas? Act Fast!," to help educate our consumers on how to protect themselves and their loved ones if a natural gas leak occurs.

In particular, Ashburn will be hanging campaign posters in highly visible public places, including senior centers, libraries, schools and storefronts, as well as mailing natural gas safety information directly to our consumers. (All campaign materials are being produced in English and Spanish.)

The City of Ashburn also will be directing consumers to the campaign's Web site, <www.safegas.org>, which features safety tips, the latest natural gas news, a special section just for kids, contact information for all natural gas providers in Georgia and more. Visitors will learn:

Possible indicators of escaping natural gas:

- An odor of gas
- A hissing sound
- A fire in or near a gas appliance or piping
- Unusual noise coming from an appliance



What to do if you detect natural gas in the air:

- Do not attempt to locate gas leaks
- Do not smoke or use lighters, matches or other sources of open flames
- Do not turn lights on or off or unplug electrical appliances
- Do not use telephones, including cell phones, in or near an area where you smell gas
- Leave the area immediately and call your natural gas provider or 911

The City of Ashburn is dedicated to preserving the safety and well being of all Georgians, and we look forward to working with the Georgia PSC on this important initiative. For more information, please contact Ashburn City Hall at 567-3431 or 567-2424.