



Chambersburg Gas – What We’re Doing to Make Our System Safer and Protect You From Gas Leaks

Gas safety is the single most important concern of the Borough of Chambersburg Gas Department. Natural Gas is probably the most heavily Federal and State regulated utility in the nation, yet Chambersburg’s focus on safety goes above and beyond the regulations to protect our citizens.

The Gas Department spends about \$500,000 each year, roughly half of our net revenue, replacing old gas mains and services. Since 2000, the Borough has replaced more than half of our cast iron mains (13 miles replaced out of 24 miles). Our new plastic mains will not corrode or crack, making the system safer.

We conduct a leak survey of every gas main with a laser methane detector annually, as well as each service every three years. We annually test every steel main for corrosion, and each steel service every ten years. Additionally, our gas is odorized with the standard natural gas “rotten egg” smell, making it easy for residents to notice and report any leaks that do occur.

The Borough mails or advertises safety information to the public every year, and sponsors safe digging bulletins for all local contractors. This year we are also purchasing carbon monoxide (CO) detectors for all owner occupied residences in the Borough.

Gas Department employees must complete a comprehensive Operator Qualification (OQ) training program, with passing grades required on tests for each of the 49 sections. This training and testing is required every three years. Employees also receive monthly safety training, and annually pass a plastic pipe training and testing program.

Chambersburg’s gas safety programs are expensive, but worth it. Results are proven by the fact that Chambersburg has had zero reportable gas safety incidents over the past 25 years. We are proud to say that no gas system in Pennsylvania is safer than ours.