

**TOWN OF WATERTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT  
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

**SECTION:** hazardous materials incidents  
**SUBJECT:** broken natural gas main no fire  
**REVISED:** 7/2013

**PURPOSE:**

to establish guidelines for the handling of gas leaks outside a structure that is not on fire.

**POLICY:**

All personnel shall follow these guidelines for gas leaks outside a structure that is not on fire.

**PROCEDURE:**

- A. notify dispatch to respond natural gas provider to the leak address.
- B. Spot apparatus safely upwind from the break.
- C. The first two apparatus may enter the block area of the leak.
- D. All other apparatus shall stage up wind from the break site.
- E. Request traffic control and or road closed by law enforcement.

**SAFETY:**

- A. all personnel involved with the gas shutoff operations, shall have gone full protective clothing and breathing apparatus.
- B. Operate with the wind at your back.
- C. Make sure that all companies that looking up for water supplies are in a safe position.
- D. Removed sources of ignition from the immediate area including fire apparatus.
- E. Keep all my standards and traffic clear of area. With large, high-pressure mains, 500 feet is considered a safe distance.
- F. Noise level from high-pressure gas line breaks can be loud enough to cause physical effect on personnel, actually influencing their ability to think and act clearly.

**CONTROL LEAK:**

- A. the guest apartment shall control any leaks from gas mains.
- B. The fire department shall protect gas division personnel, fire personnel, with hose lines.
- C. Make sure that companies looking up to water supplies are in a safe location.
- D. Remove sources of ignition from immediate area, including fire apparatus.
- E. It is possible to disperse pockets of gas by fog lines. If streams are used, do not direct streams on broken pipe in the pit. This could create additional problems.
- F. Guard against static electricity when stopping leaks by use of wet rags or fine mist.

**OPERATIONS:**

- A. request necessary assistance from the gas department.
- B. Evacuate area.
- C. Eliminate sources of ignition.
- D. Position apparatus for exposure control.
- E. Utilize control measures to stop leak.
- F. Check area with atmospheric monitoring device.