

# About Gas Safety



One day Alex and his sister, Ava, were walking home from school. They smelled something strange outside of their house.

“Something stinks!” said Alex.

Ava added, “It smells like rotten eggs! I wonder what it is.”

When they got home, they told their mom about the smell. Mrs. Gordon told her children that natural gas smells like rotten eggs. That could mean a gas leak. She took her cell phone and the three of them walked outside.

“It smells like gas,” said Mrs. Gordon. “We need to move away from the area.” Once they were away from the smell, Mrs. Gordon called the gas company to report it. Their neighbor Mr. James walked by. He had smelled the gas too but did not report it.

A team from the gas company then arrived in a service truck. They showed Mrs. Gordon their badges and then went to investigate the smell. They found a small leak in an underground pipe near Alex and Ava’s home and repaired it.

When they were done, Eddie from the gas company thanked the kids and Mrs. Gordon. He said they did the right thing. They moved away from the area. They reported the smell. And they

did not ignore the smell. Gas leaks can be dangerous and can cause explosions. Kids should tell a trusted grown-up if they smell natural gas.

Eddie also explained that if you suspect a gas leak in your home, there are things you should not do. Do not turn on lights or appliances. Do not use your phones. And do not light matches. Instead, get everyone away from the area and then contact the gas company or call 911.

“Why does gas stink like rotten eggs?” asked Ava.

Eddie explained that natural gas is actually odorless. It has no smell. A scent is added to the gas. This can help people detect possible leaks and prevent dangerous situations.

“Thank you, Eddie. This is helpful information,” said Mrs. Gordon.

It was a very busy day for the Gordons. They are now safe and have learned that if you smell gas, act fast.

## Think About It

Answer the questions below about the story.

1. What did Ava say she smelled outside? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What caused the smell? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What three things did the family do right, according to the gas company? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What could the neighbor, Mr. James, have done differently? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What should families not do if they smell gas? \_\_\_\_\_
6. If you think you smell natural gas, what should you do? \_\_\_\_\_

