

If you notice trees or plants that are dying for no apparent reason, consider a gas leak.

Aging natural gas pipelines can leak. Tiny pinhole leaks can enlarge to become larger, more significant sources of methane gas mixed with the mercaptan that we can smell. This is becoming a problem in older cities, sometimes resulting in explosions, tree and plant deaths, and released methane, which enhances global warming.

As natural gas leaks from pipes into the ground, it displaces oxygen in the soil, dries the earth, suffocates, and kills the roots of the trees and plants growing there. Dead or dying vegetation in an area, especially if when replaced the new plants also fail to thrive, may be an indication of a gas leak from an aged pipe, or one that has been damaged by past construction or digging in that area. Other indicators are a sulfur-like odor, a hissing sound, dirt spraying into the air, and constant bubbling in a body of water.

WHAT TO DO: If you notice a tree or plantings that are dying for no apparent reason, consider a gas leak. The gas pipelines in your yard can be identified by calling 811. These should always be identified before you dig. When walking outside in your yard or community, if you smell a gas leak call Dominion gas company (877-542-2630) and report it. **If you smell something, say something!**