

Strong Odors

Natural Gas

Natural gas is flammable and leaks can lead to fire and explosion. Natural gas has a compound added to it that smells a little like rotten eggs. This allows you to smell leaking gas when it's at very low concentrations. All natural gas odors should be treated seriously and need to be reported.

If you Smell Natural Gas:

- **Turn off** all sources of ignition (open flames, electrical equipment).
- **Check** laboratory gas outlets for open valves and local gas tubing for leaks.
- **Call Facilities Services** at 206-685-1411 to investigate building systems and equipment for leaks.

Strong, Widespread and/or Quickly Worsening Natural Gas Odor:

- **Evacuate the area** turning off all sources of ignition (open flames, electrical equipment) as you exit.
- **Close local and emergency valves if present.** Close all gas outlets and the emergency gas valve for your floor, laboratory, or area if one exists.
- **Activate fire alarm.** If the building is equipped with a fire alarm system, activate the alarm at a pull station.
- **Stay out.** Do not return to an evacuated building unless told to do so by the on-scene authority (fire department, police department or other personnel).

Other Strong Odors

- **Investigate** if the source is just in your area. If not, check the hallway and adjacent laboratories to determine if the odor is widespread.
- **Confer with EH&S** at 206-543-7262 if you experience symptoms or illness.
- **Take action** if the source is obvious and something can be done without putting anyone at risk. For example, eliminate or control the odor by moving a benchtop procedure to a fume hood.
- **Contact Capital Planning and Development** at 206-543-5200 if the odor clearly originates from a major construction site (e.g., diesel fumes, dust, asphalt, or roofing).
- **Contact EH&S** at 206-543-7262 for tobacco smoke odors.