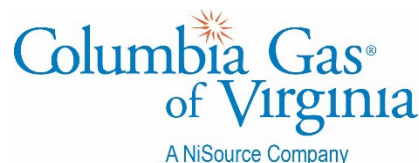


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**March 9, 2025: Media Statement from Columbia Gas of Virginia regarding odor of natural gas reports in Warrenton and Fauquier County:**

Columbia Gas of Virginia continues to coordinate with officials from the town of Warrenton and the Fauquier County Fire and Rescue System. We are committed to safety of the community and will continue to work with our local partners throughout this process and beyond.

We are providing an update to our ongoing efforts to address the higher-than-typical odorant, also known as mercaptan, levels that were detected in our natural gas infrastructure earlier this week. Due to a later than expected start of the flaring, Columbia Gas will continue the process of flaring into the overnight and, possibly, early morning hours.

Flaring is a routine procedure in which natural gas is burned off the system in order to ensure the safety of our infrastructure. In this case, the goal is to safely and efficiently burn off the excess mercaptan.

**Here's what you can expect:**

- The flaring will continue this afternoon and evening and is expected to conclude sometime between midnight and 6 a.m. on Monday, March 10.
- If you are in the area, you will see an open flame coming off a pipe. The flame may be as high as 20 feet.
- You may also detect the odor of natural gas/mercaptan, which smells like rotten eggs as this flare is in use.
- Drivers traveling through the area may encounter Columbia Gas work zones. You are asked to exercise caution; be prepared for slowed or temporarily stopped traffic; observe posted signs and obey road crew flaggers.

Mercaptan is an organic and naturally occurring compound. Because natural gas is odorless and colorless, utility companies add mercaptan as a safety measure to give natural gas its characteristic rotten egg odor. Federal regulations require natural gas companies to odorize natural gas. The amount of mercaptan added to natural gas is very small, but even a small amount of the compound can create a strong smell. The small amount of mercaptan in natural gas is not hazardous to human health.

We will continue to actively monitor our natural gas systems and leverage advanced leak detection technology that allows us to identify and prioritize potential leaks on our natural gas delivery system more quickly and efficiently.

**If you need assistance with your natural gas service:**

- Columbia Gas crews are performing safety checks, and relighting natural gas appliances for all affected customers. If you don't have natural gas service and have not reported the outage to us, please contact us at **1-800-543-8911** to let us know.
- For customers who are not home at the time when our technicians arrive to assist, door hangers will be left informing them of the outage and requesting they call Columbia Gas at **1-800-543-8911** for a service technician to be dispatched to restore service to their homes or businesses.

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