

ALISO CANYON GAS LEAK

Pet Health Fact Sheet



Overview

This fact sheet provides information about the natural gas leak at the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility and possible health impacts on pets in the area.

- The natural gas leak began on October 23, 2015.
- Natural gas in California is mainly composed of methane, an odorless gas.
- Because natural gas is odorless, trace amounts of odorants called mercaptans are added so that a gas leak is easy to detect. Mercaptans give natural gas the “rotten-egg”, “garlicky”, “skunk-like” smell.
- Exposures to these odorant chemicals may cause short term health effects in pets but are not known to cause long-term or permanent health problems.



Possible Health Effects in Pets

- Irritation to the eyes, nose, throat
- Coughing, sneezing, shortness of breath
- Lethargy
- Nausea and vomiting
- Dizziness
- Possible skin irritation
- Fish and birds may be more sensitive to the effects of natural gas than dogs and cats.

Recommendations

- Keep pets indoors when gas smell is present.
- Relocate, if possible, when symptoms are present.
- Keep windows and doors closed.
- Monitor pets for the health effects.
- Seek veterinary care if pets experience any of the listed health effects.
- Monitor the pH of outdoor ponds that have fish. Natural gas additives may potentially affect the pH of the water and cause negative health effects in fish.
- Report potential illness in your pet to Veterinary Public Health online at: http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/Aliso_leak.htm

More Information

- If you or your veterinarian have additional questions or would like more information, please call the **Veterinary Public Health Program at 213-989-7060 (M-F 8 am – 5 pm)**. Additional information about the gas leak and human health effects are available at: <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/gasleak/>