

Falmouth Fire-EMS Operating Guideline

Gas Odors

Objective:

To provide guidelines for response to reported gas odors.

General Information:

Falmouth Fire-EMS is called to numerous reports of gas odors each year. With the addition of natural gas in 2015, there are many types of gas in various locations throughout the town. A gas odor may be caused by a leak of a propane or natural gas line, or it could be caused by an empty propane tank. Falmouth Fire-EMS will respond when called to investigate each incident to try to determine the source of the odor.

Guidelines:

Outside Odors

Falmouth Fire-EMS will respond to reports of outside odors of gas leaks with the district engine, the on-duty ambulance if available and a chief officer or duty officer.

A. Role of District Engine:

- a. The district engine will check the area and possibly use the gas meter if any structures are thought to have a leak in them.
- b. If a leak is expected in a structure the District Engine will ask Fire Alarm for a Still Box response (total of 2 engines and a ladder).
- c. The District Engine Company will check the area for any issues. If none exist, they will clear the scene.
- d. If a strong odor is found, the District Engine Company may call the appropriate gas company to request their assistance.

B. Role of On-Duty Ambulance:

- a. Assist the district engine with checking the area. The ambulances also have multi-gas meters that can be used to check out structures.

C. Role of Chief Officer or Duty Officer:

- a. Assist the district engine with checking the area. The staff cars (U1, U2 and U3) also have multi-gas meters that can be used to check out structures.

Inside Odors

Falmouth Fire-EMS will respond to reports of gas odors inside a building with a Still Box compliment of two (2) engines, one (1) aerial, the on-duty ambulance and a chief officer or duty officer.

D. Role of First-Arriving Company

- a. Establish Command.
- b. Check the area.
- c. Once two-in and two-out is established direct a check of the interior of the structure with crews with SCBA.
- d. If a leak is found in a structure the Incident Commander will contact Fire Alarm and request a Desk Box response (total of 3 engines and a ladder).
- e. The Incident Commander will also consider calling the gas company associated with the service to respond to the area.

E. Role of next-arriving companies:

- a. All other arriving companies will respond according to the basic response for Still Box Alarms or Desk Box alarms.

These guidelines may be changed or altered by the Fire Chief at any time.