



# Energy Safety

We use energy every day—many kinds of energy. Sometimes, energy can be dangerous. It is important to know the dangers and how to be safe. Here are some ways to stay safe when you are using energy.

## Natural Gas Safety

We use **natural gas** to warm our homes, cook our food, and heat our water. Natural gas is burned to make heat. That means there is fire in the furnace and in the water heater. There is fire on the stove.

Fires are always dangerous. Do not play near the furnace, water heater, or stove. Never touch them unless an adult is with you.



Natural gas can also be dangerous if there is a leak. The gas company puts a special chemical odor in natural gas. It smells like rotten eggs. That smell lets you know if there is a gas leak. Your parents or your teacher can show you how it smells.

If you ever smell natural gas, tell an adult. Don't use the phone or turn on the lights. Leave your house right away. Never light a match or start a fire if there is a gas leak.

## Petroleum Safety

We use **petroleum** for lots of jobs. Gasoline runs our cars and our lawn mowers. Sometimes we burn oil in our furnaces for heat. We burn kerosene in lanterns.

All of these fuels can be dangerous. You should never put them in your mouth or breathe their fumes. They also burn easily and can cause fires. Tell an adult if there is a spill and stay away from it. Don't try to clean it up yourself.





### Propane Safety

**Propane** is used in gas grills and on farms for heat. Propane is stored in tanks. It can be dangerous. Never touch a propane tank. If you hear propane leaking from a tank or smell gas, tell an adult and stay away. Companies add the same rotten egg odor to propane that they do to natural gas.

### Electrical Safety

Electricity is amazing. It gives us heat and light, and runs **appliances**—our TVs, computers, refrigerators, hair dryers, gaming systems, and washers. Electricity can also be dangerous. It can cause fires and injuries, even death.

#### Here are some rules for using electricity safely:

- Don't insert anything into an outlet except a plug.
- Don't pull on the cord to unplug an appliance, hold the plug and pull.
- Dry your hands before you plug in or unplug a cord.
- If a plug is broken or a cord is cut or worn, don't use it.
- Don't plug too many cords into one outlet.
- Turn off a light or unplug it before changing a light bulb.
- Never touch the inside of an appliance while it's plugged in.
- Keep appliances away from water. Don't use a hair dryer if there's water in the sink nearby.
- If there's a big storm, turn off the TV and computer.
- Don't touch any power lines outside.
- Some power lines are buried underground. Call 811 before you dig. If you are digging and find a wire, don't touch it.
- Don't fly a kite or climb a tree near a power line.

