

Returning Home After the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak

This sheet answers questions about the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility natural gas leak. Many residents temporarily relocated from the Porter Ranch area due to the sulfurous odors from the gas leak and the symptoms they were having. Understandably, residents are concerned about when they can safely return home.

1. Is it safe to return home?

Residents can safely move back into their homes after the State confirms that the leaking well has been sealed **AND** odors are no longer causing symptoms. Once the well is sealed, the Department of Public Health (Public Health) expects to see further reductions in chemical emissions that can cause odors and/or potential health effects. Public Health will continue assessing air quality and health in the Porter Ranch area. If at any time Public Health observes any unusual findings in air monitoring data or health impacts to residents, we will notify those who may be affected and take any action necessary to protect health.

2. What is Public Health doing to ensure the safety of the soil and water in Porter Ranch?

Public Health and other agencies will continue working to restore conditions in the Porter Ranch community.

Soil and outdoor surfaces

Since methane and the other chemicals of concern are gases, they do not settle and contaminate soils. However, residents may have concerns about the “oily residue” resulting from recent drilling operations near the leaking well. Residents should avoid contact with fruits, vegetables, and any surfaces that appear to be coated with an oily residue. If you see any oily residue on food or other surfaces, call SoCalGas to send staff to assess and clean-up as needed.

Water

Drinking water in Porter Ranch is brought in from other areas, so it would not be affected by the gas leak. Concerns about drinking water should be discussed with the Los Angeles DWP. Swimming pools are large enough not to be affected by the emissions from the gas leak. Fish ponds may need to be tested for acidity.

3. What if I still smell gas in my home?

It's not expected that odors will continue in your home after the gas leak has been stopped. But, if you do smell “rotten-egg,” “garlicky,” “skunk-like,” or other odors, you may air out the inside of your home by opening doors and windows or using fans to help the smell go away. If the smell continues, contact SoCalGas and the AQMD right away so they can investigate the source of the odor.



Key Points

- Short-term symptoms are expected to decrease as emissions continue to drop.
- Public Health will continue to assess outdoor air quality even after the gas leak has been stopped.
- Report oily residue or persistent gas odors to SoCalGas.

For more information

**Los Angeles County
Department of Public Health**
888-700-9995

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/>

**South Coast Air Quality
Management District (AQMD)**

<http://www.aqmd.gov/>
1-800-CUT-SMOG (1-800-288-7664)

**Los Angeles County Fire
Department**

323-881-2411
<http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/>

**Los Angeles Department of
Water and Power (DWP)**
1-800-DIAL-DWP (1-800-342-5397)

<https://www.ladwp.com/>

**Southern California Gas
Company (SoCalGas)**
818-435-7707

<https://www.socalgas.com/>

Revised 02/05/16