



# Responding to Natural Gas Emergencies

Hazardous Material Training Symposium

*January 2020*

1910



1997

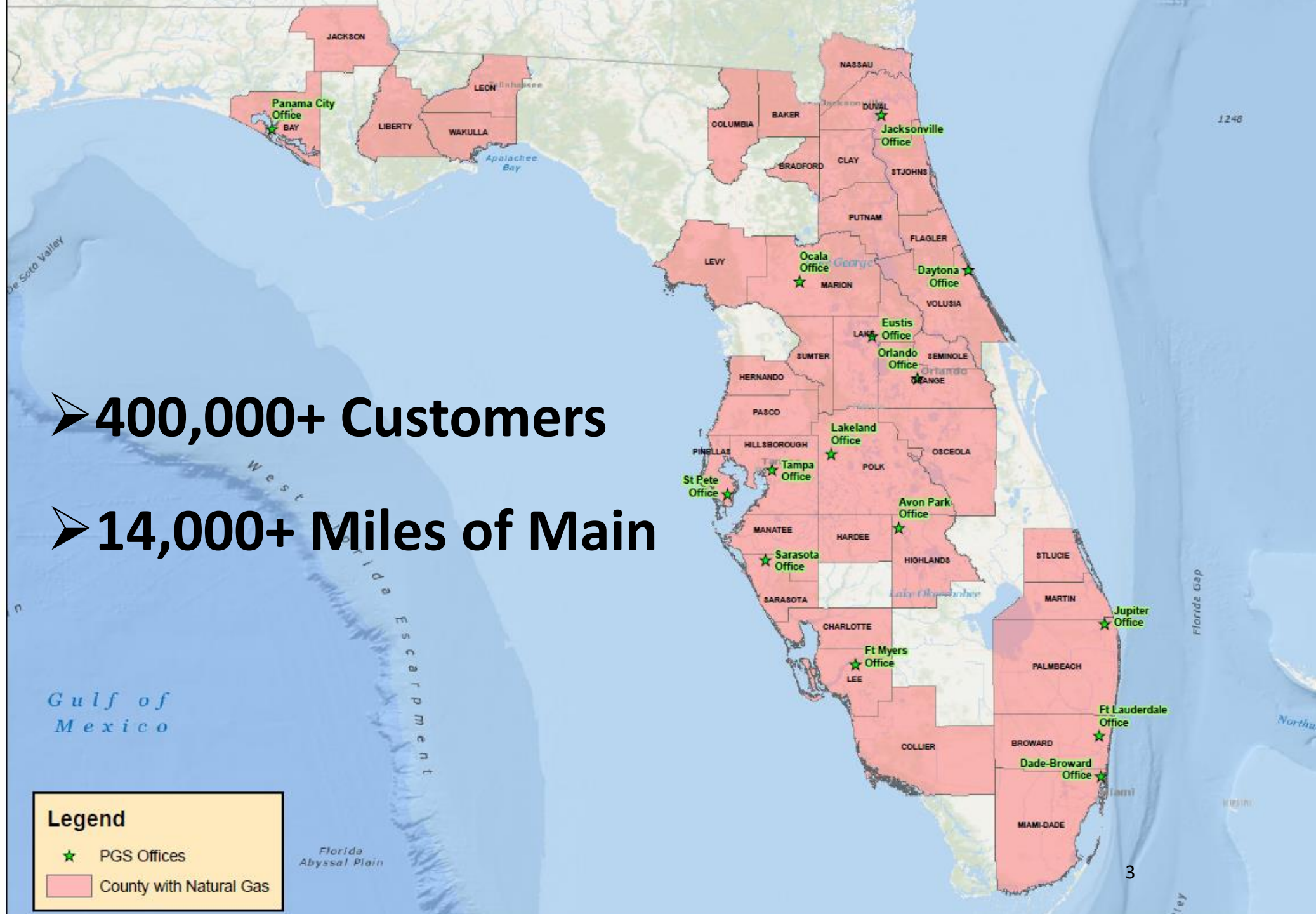


2016



➤ 400,000+ Customers

➤ 14,000+ Miles of Main

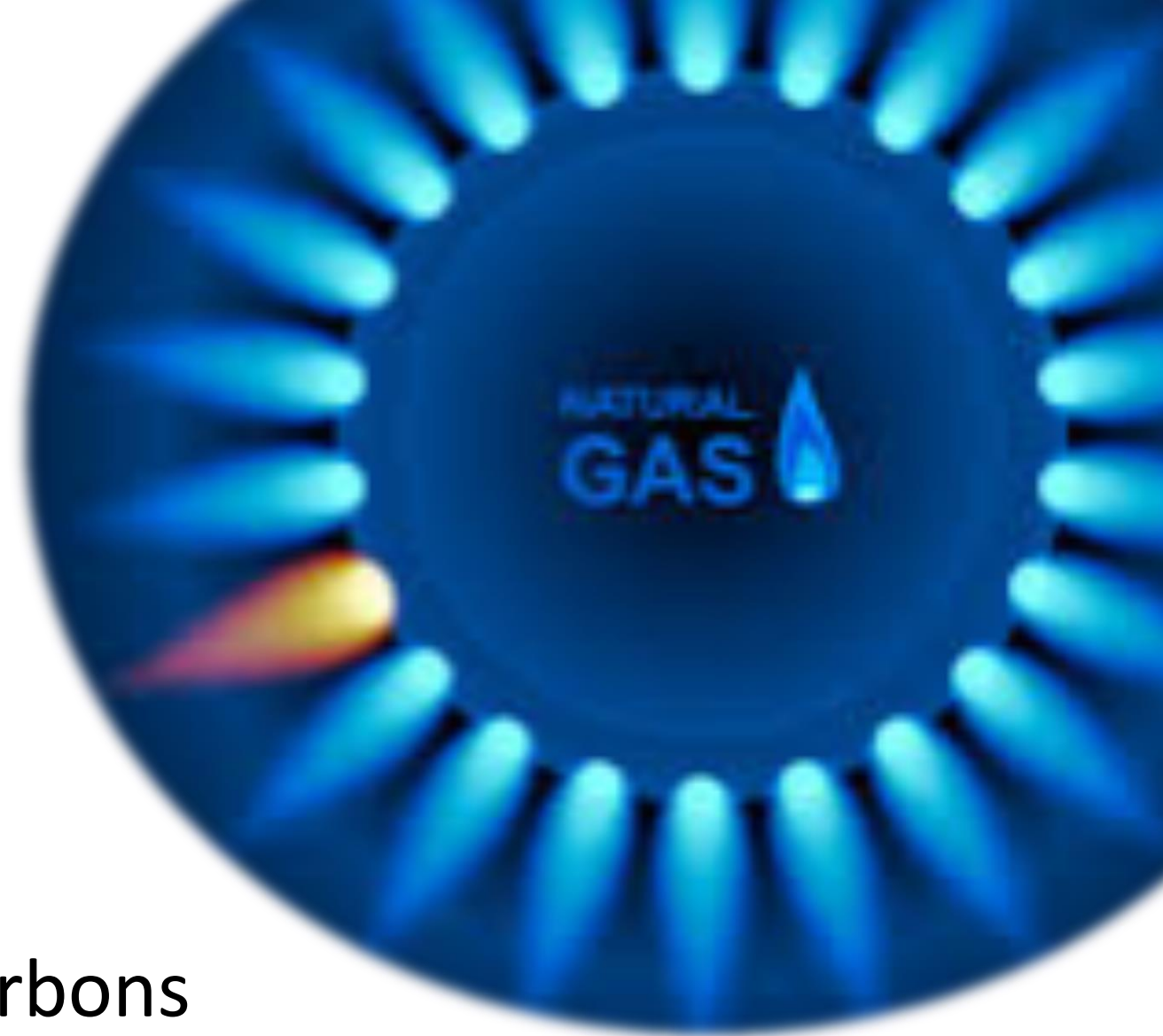


**Legend**

- ★ PGS Offices
- County with Natural Gas

# What is natural gas?

- 95% methane
- Other 5%:
  - Ethane
  - Propane
  - Water Vapor
  - Other heavier hydrocarbons



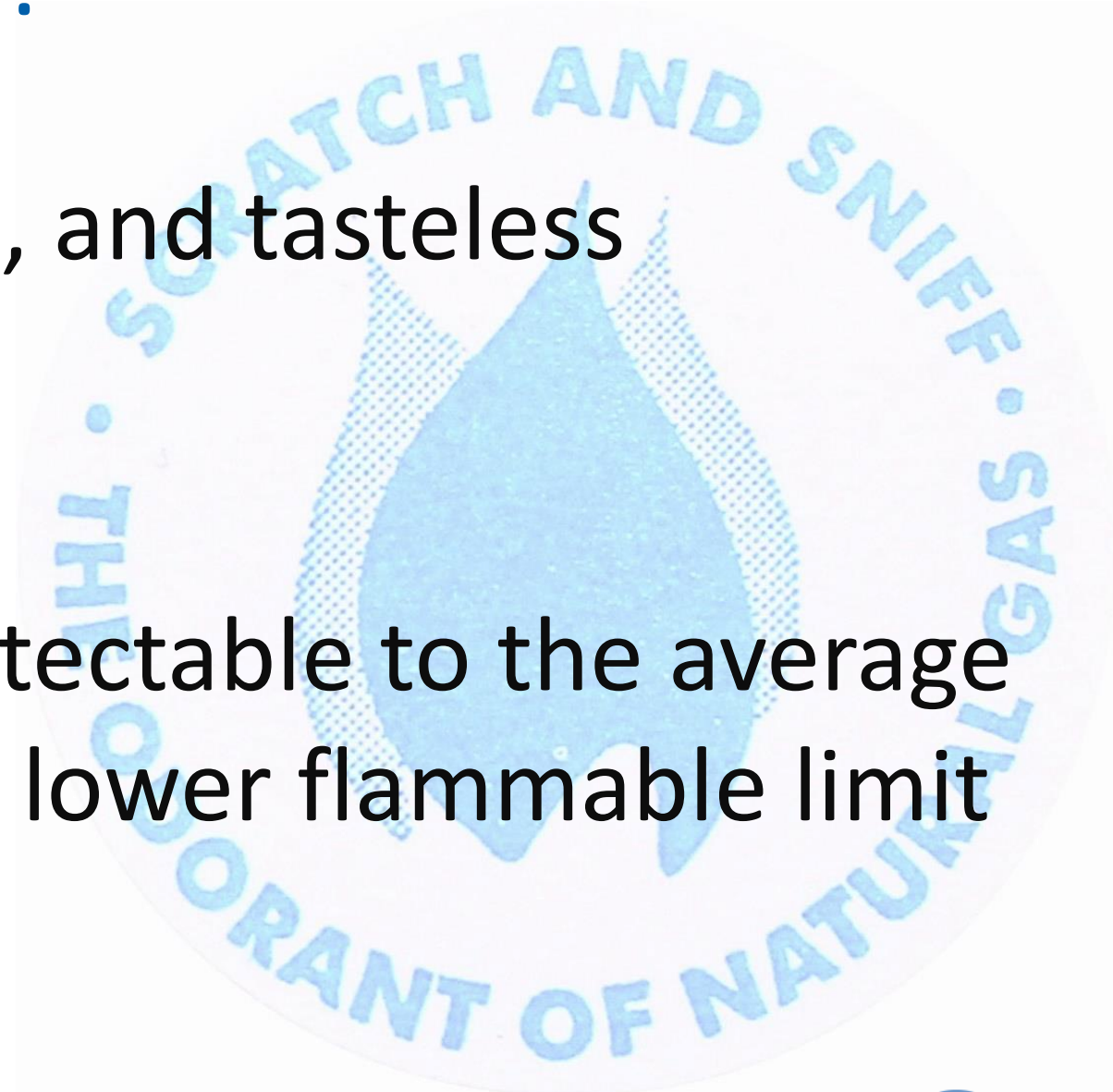
# What is natural gas?

- ✓ Non-toxic
- ✓ Breathed without harm
- ✓ Simple Asphyxiant



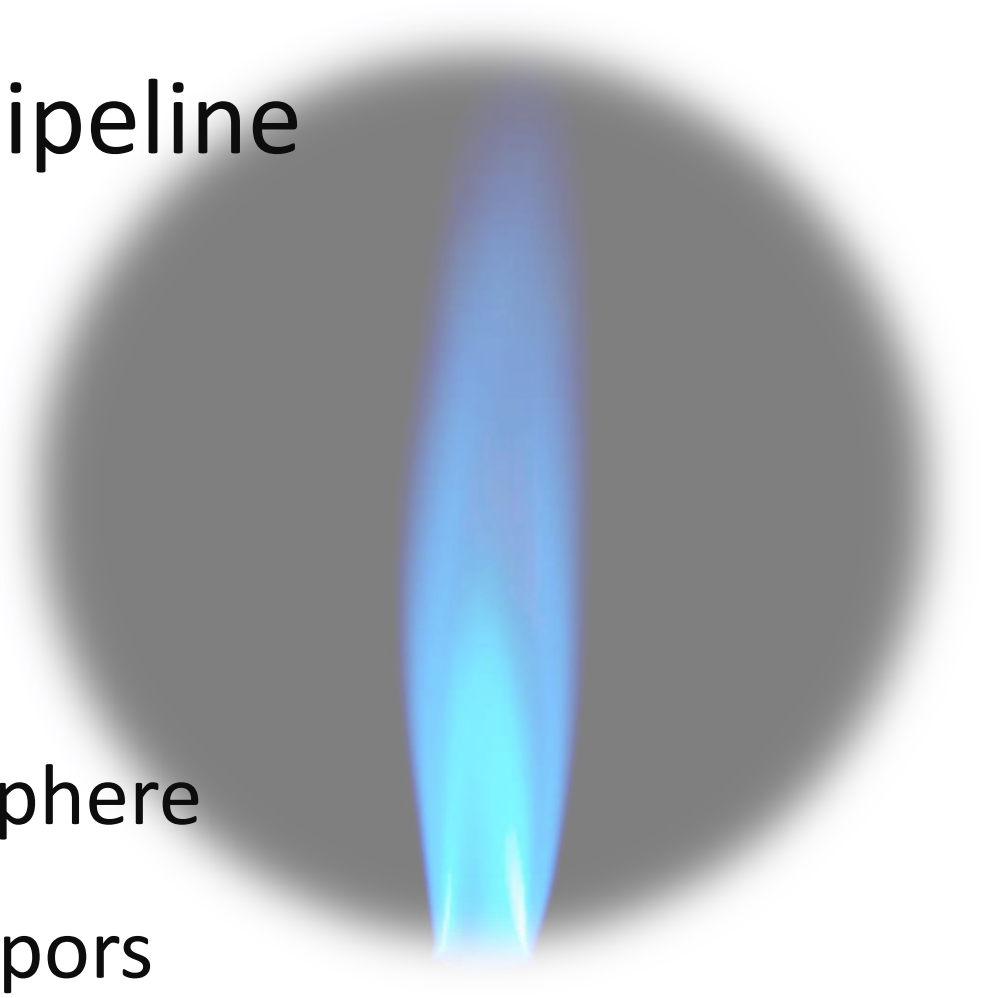
# What is natural gas?

- ✓ Odorless, colorless, and tasteless
- ✓ Mercaptan added
- ✓ Must be readily detectable to the average nose at 20% of the lower flammable limit

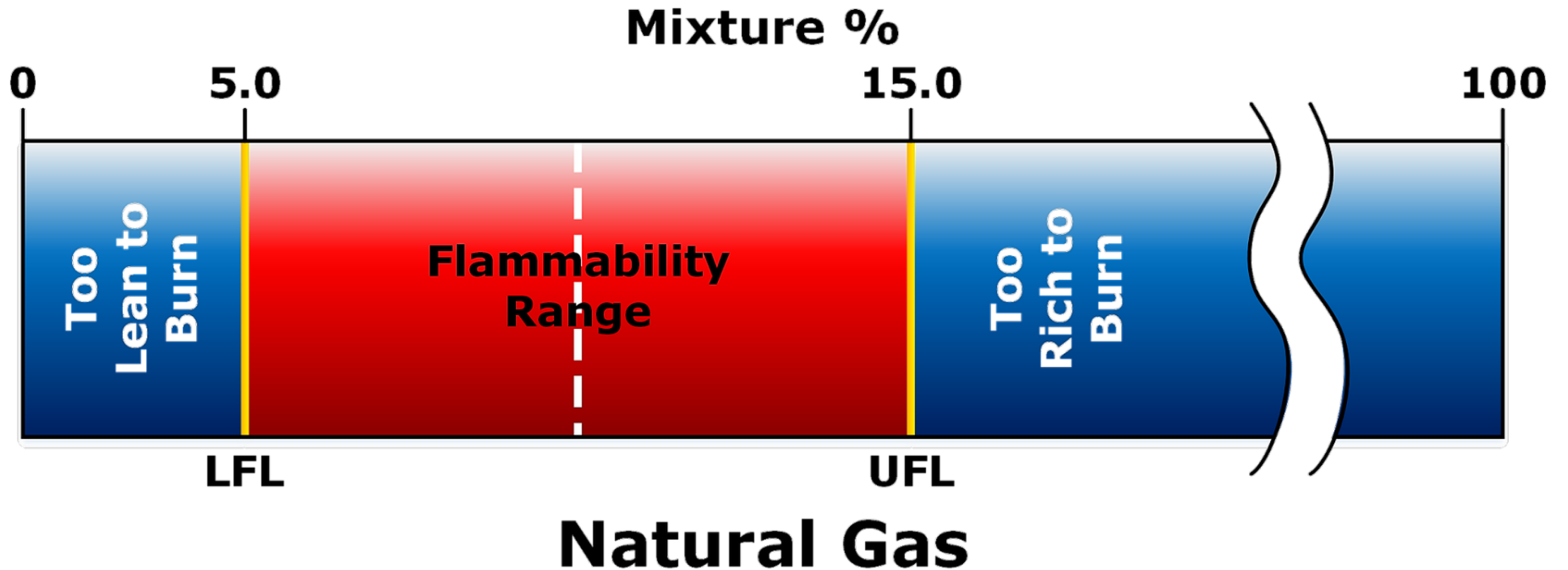


# What is natural gas?

- ✓ Exists as a vapor inside the pipeline
- ✓ Boiling Point =  $-258^{\circ}$  F
- ✓ Specific gravity = 0.6
  - ✓ Lighter than air
  - ✓ Quickly dissipates in the atmosphere
  - ✓ Consider wind direction and vapors



# What is natural gas?





# What is natural gas?

➤ Ignition Temperature of 1,100° F

➤ Ignition Sources

✓ Scuff of a shoe

✓ Static discharge

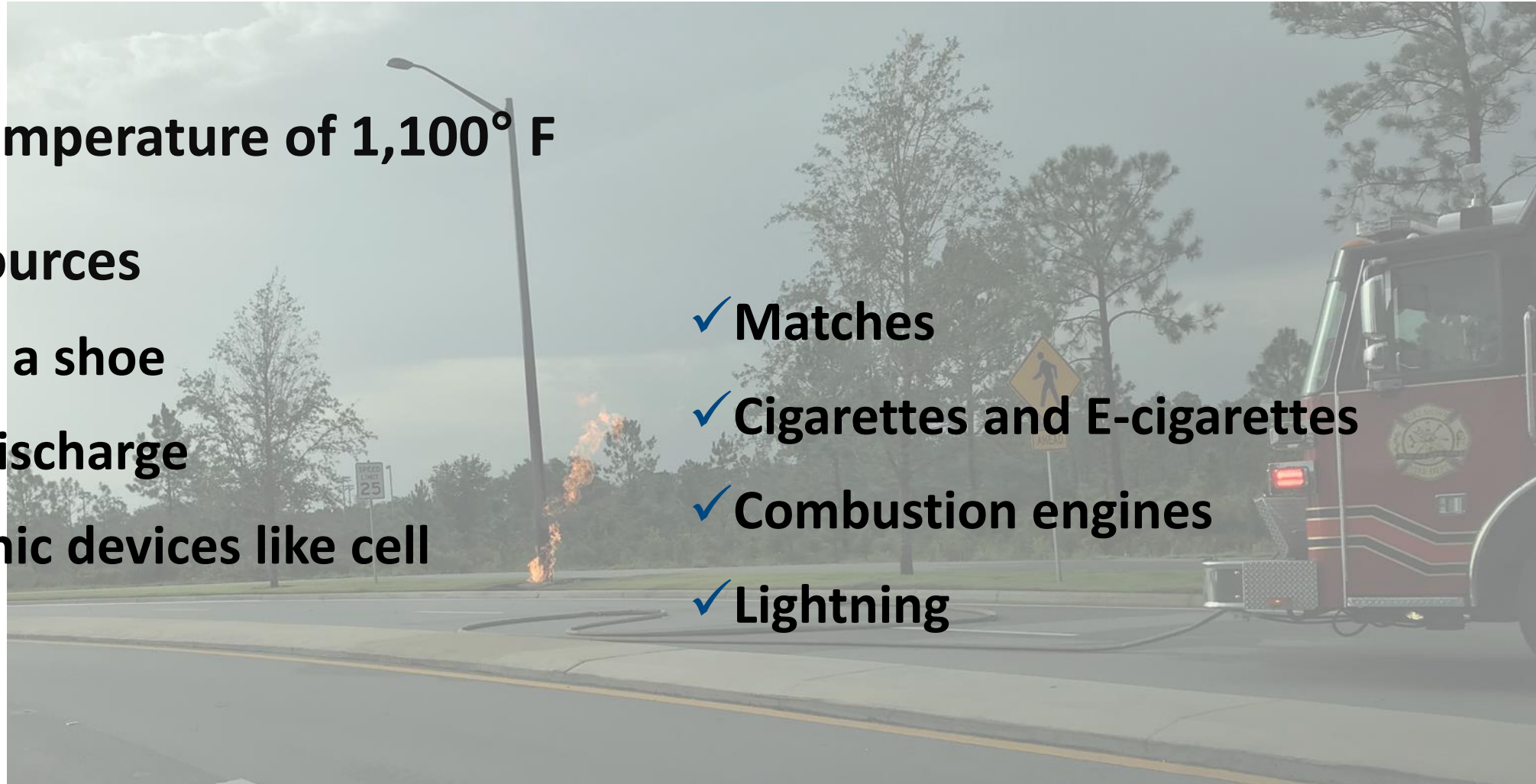
✓ Electronic devices like cell phones

✓ Matches

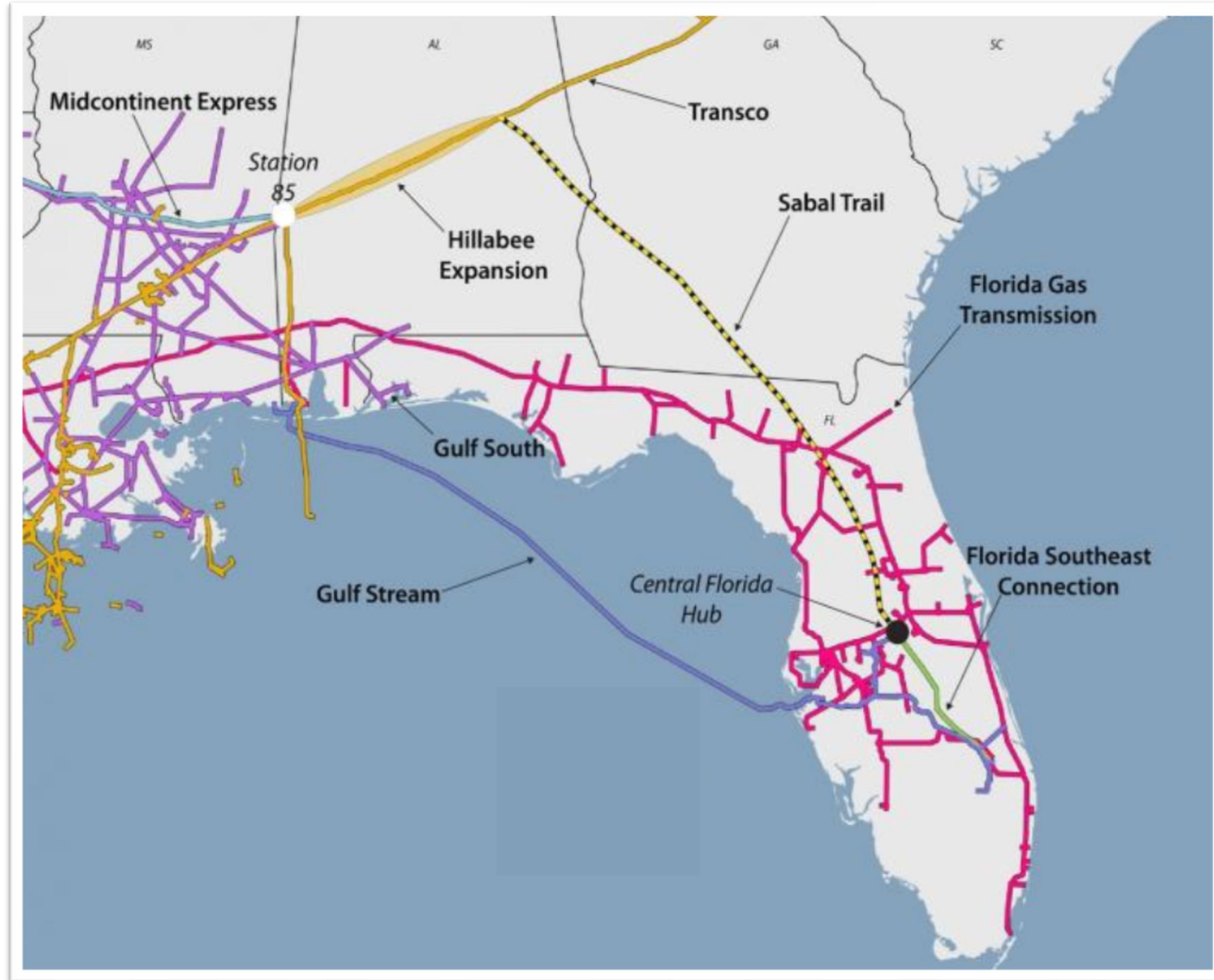
✓ Cigarettes and E-cigarettes

✓ Combustion engines

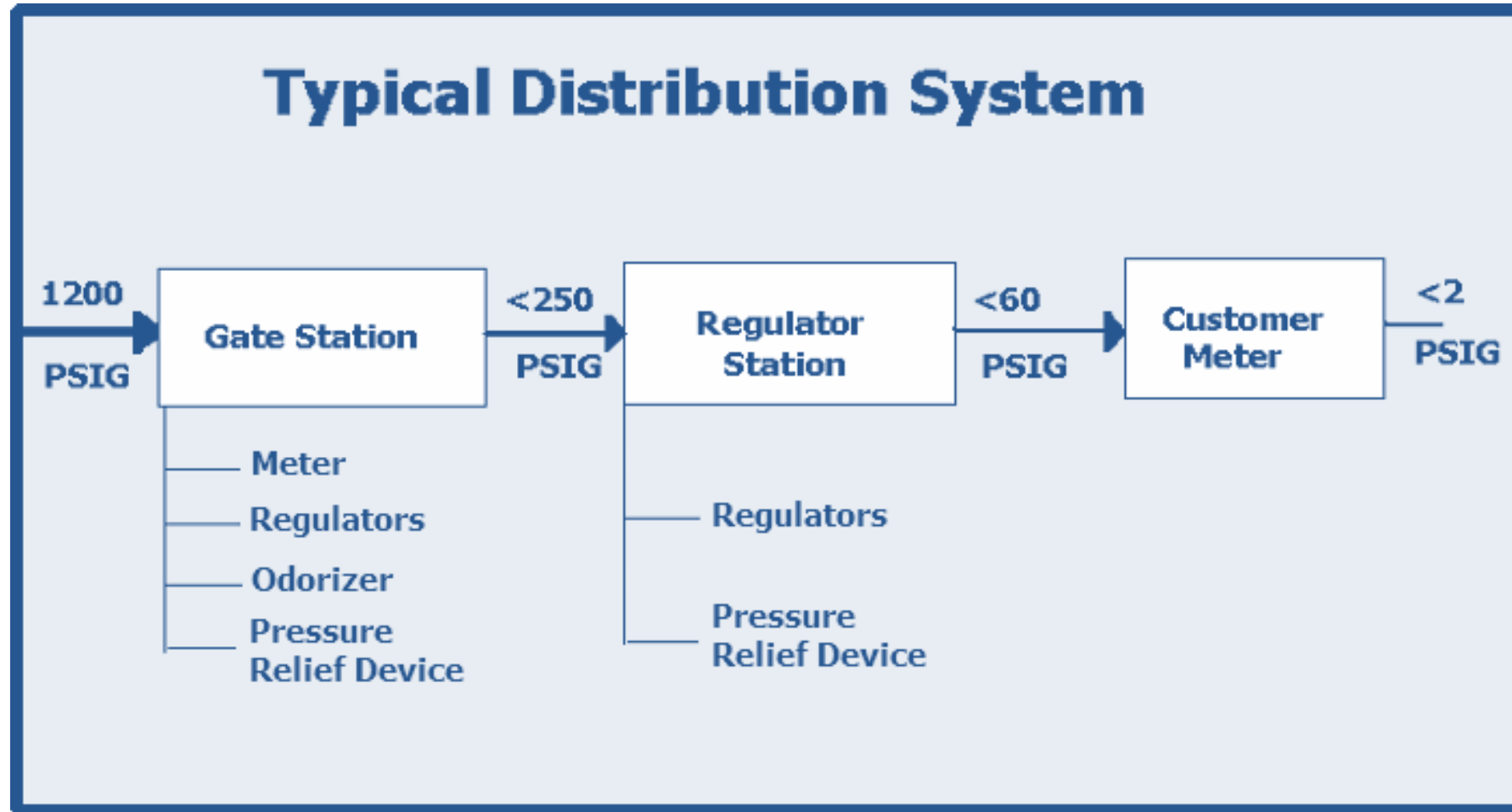
✓ Lightning



# Natural Gas Transmission



# Distribution



# Distribution: Gate Station



# Distribution: Plastic Pipe



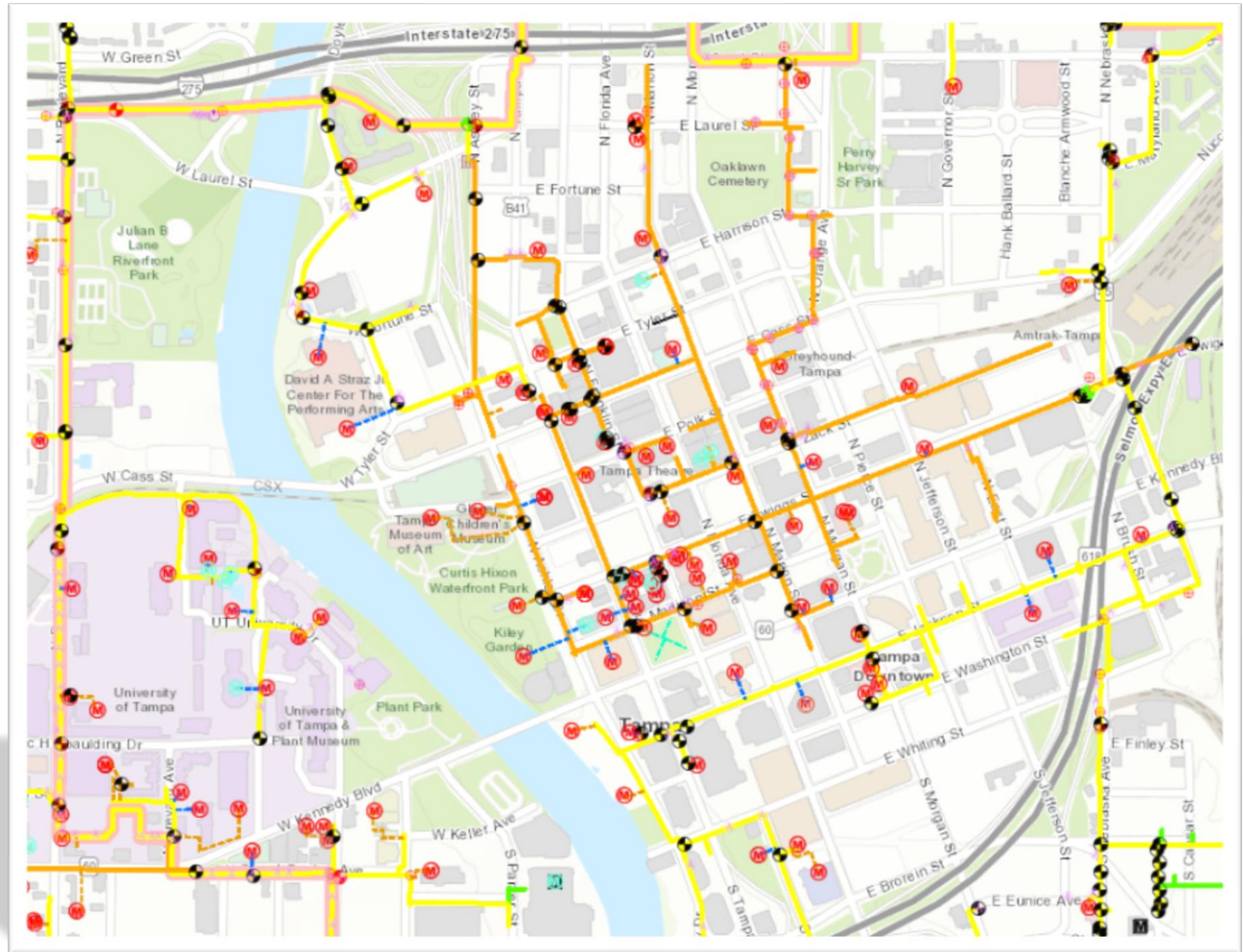
# Distribution: Steel Pipe



# Distribution: Reg Station



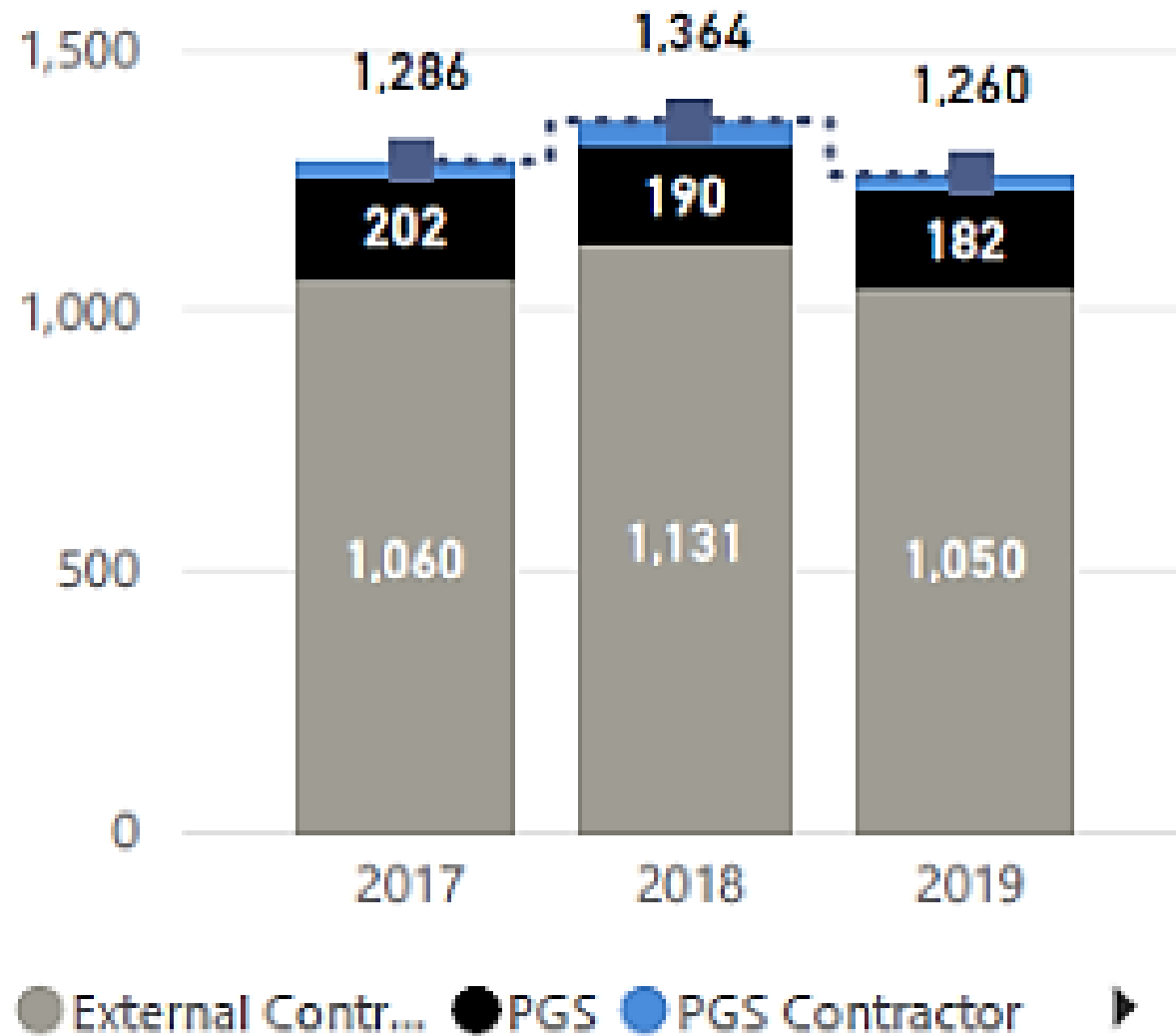
# Distribution: System Map





# Hit lines

## Damage Reports by Year



# Call Before You Dig

- ✓ **Regulatory Requirements**
- ✓ **Accurate Info**
- ✓ **Maintaining Marks**
- ✓ **Waiting Period (Two business days)**

- ✓ **Spotting Utilities**
- ✓ **Penalties**
- ✓ **80/20 Split**



Know what's below.  
**Call before you dig.**

# Signs of Gas Facilities...



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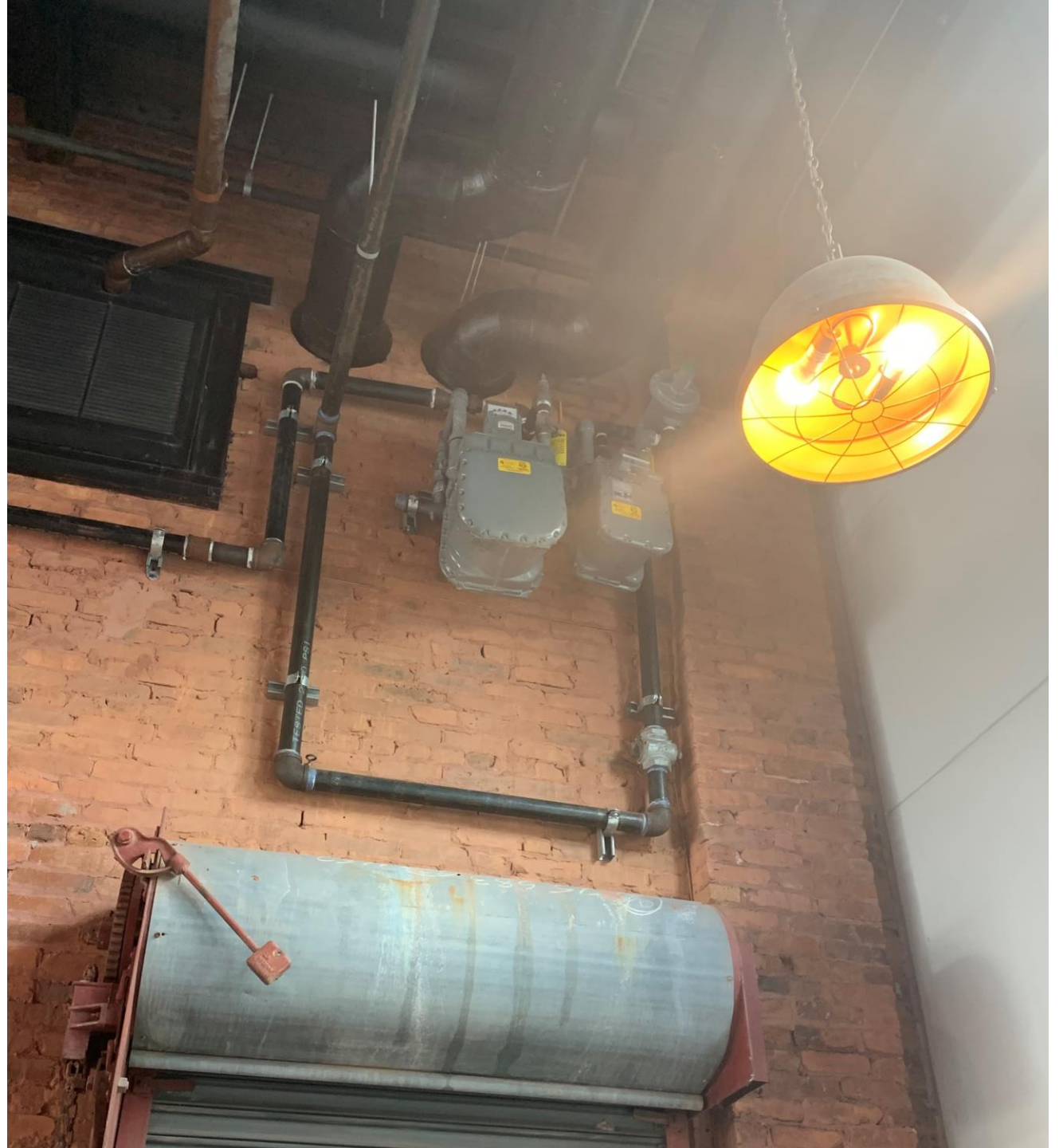
# Signs of Gas Facilities...



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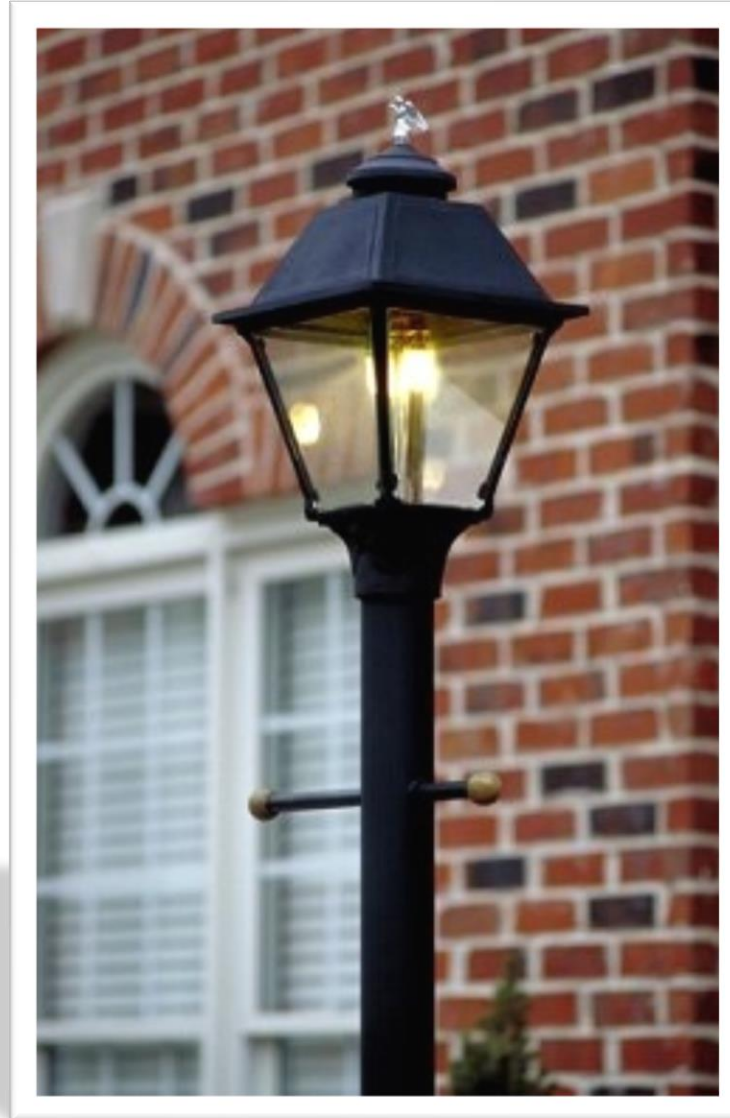


# Signs of Gas Facilities...





# Signs of Gas Facilities...



# Signs of Gas Facilities...



# Signs of Gas Facilities...



Marker colors...



# Signs of Gas Facilities...

- ✓ Paint
- ✓ Flags
- ✓ Stakes
- ✓ Offsets

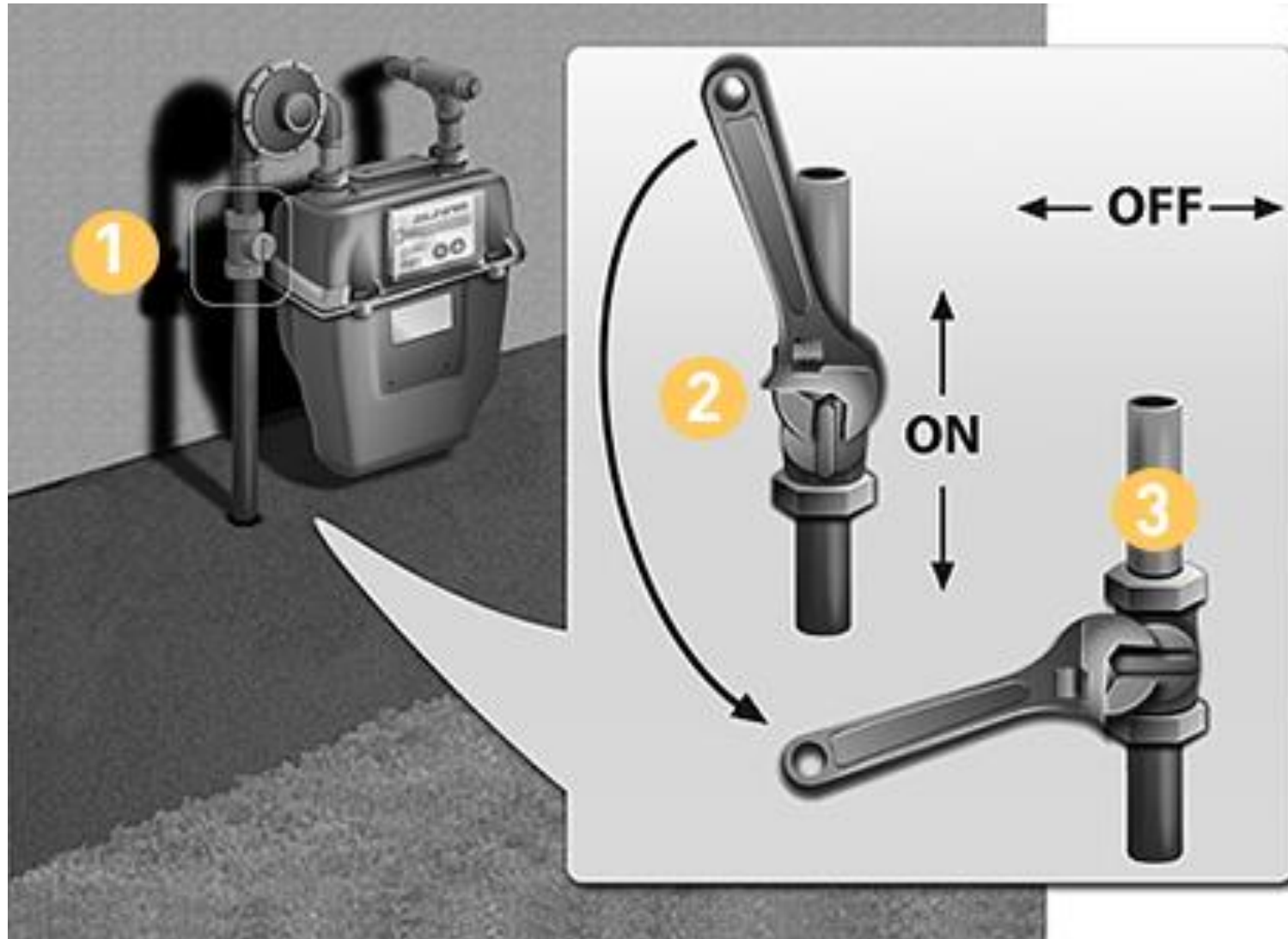


# Inside Gas Leak Response

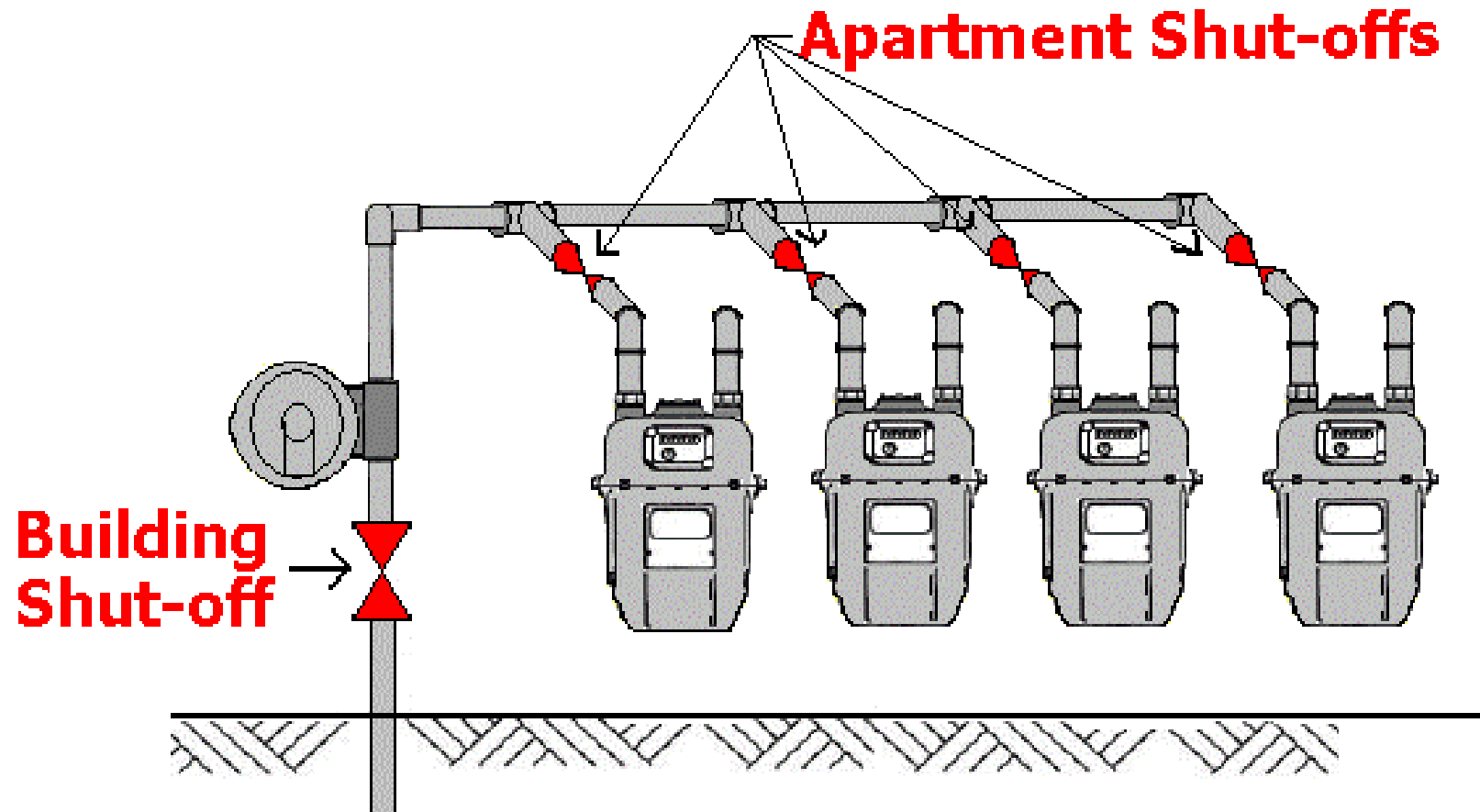
- Evacuate building
- Do not operate electrical switches
- Open windows and doors to ventilate
- Shut-off gas at meter (depending on severity)
- Do Not reopen a closed valve



# Meter Shut-Off

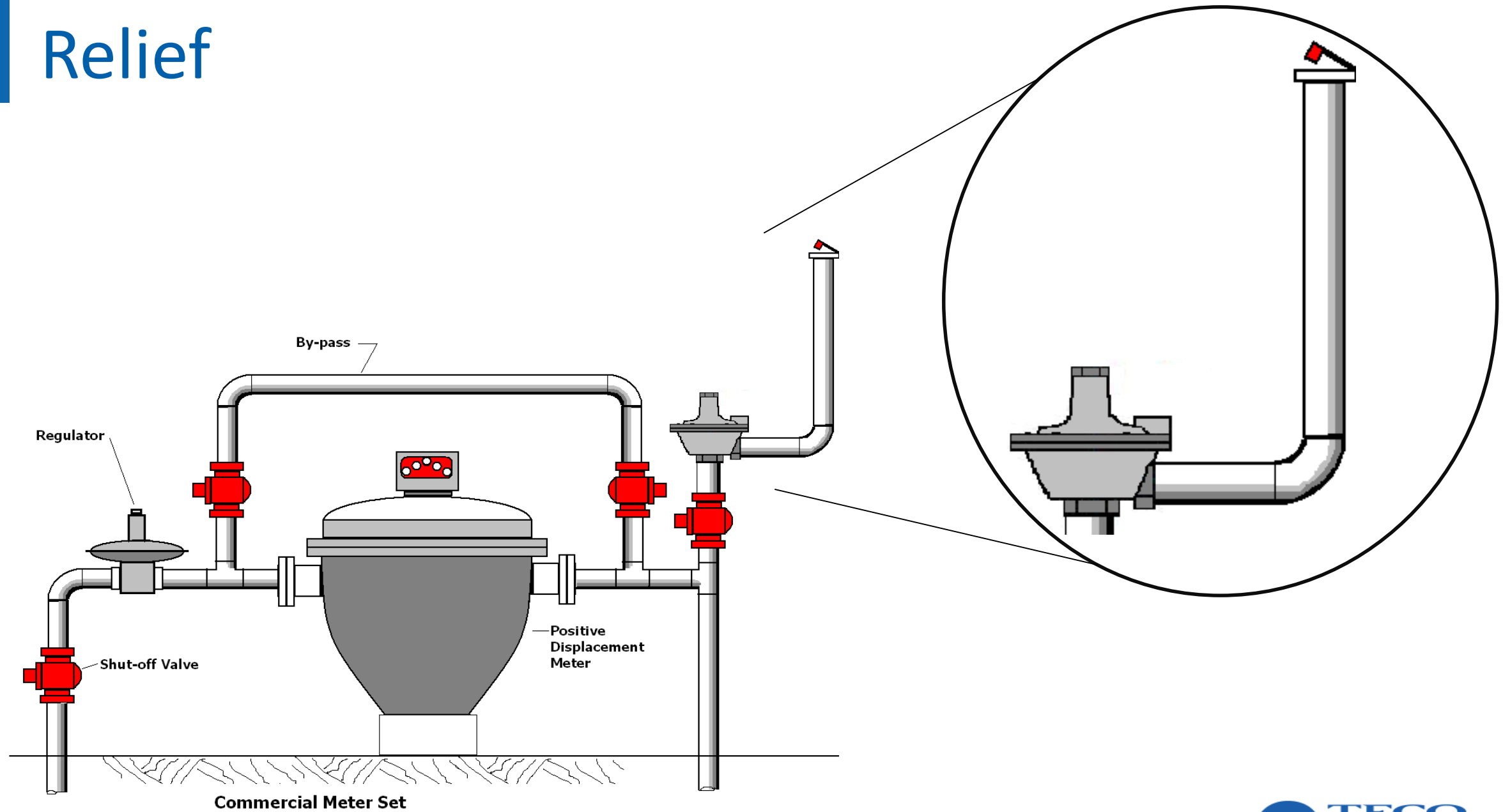


# Meter Shut-Off



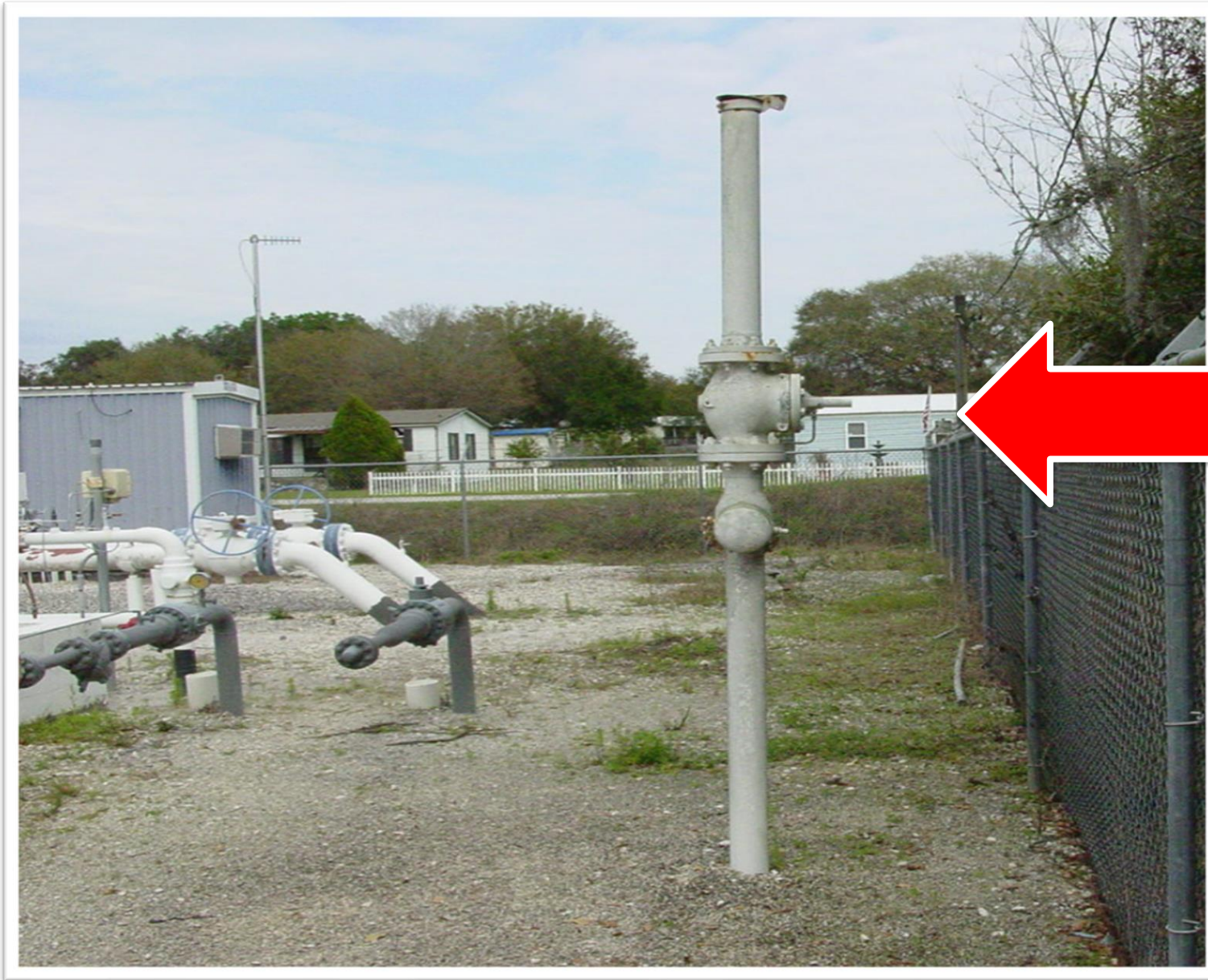
**Manifold Meterset**

# Relief





# Relief

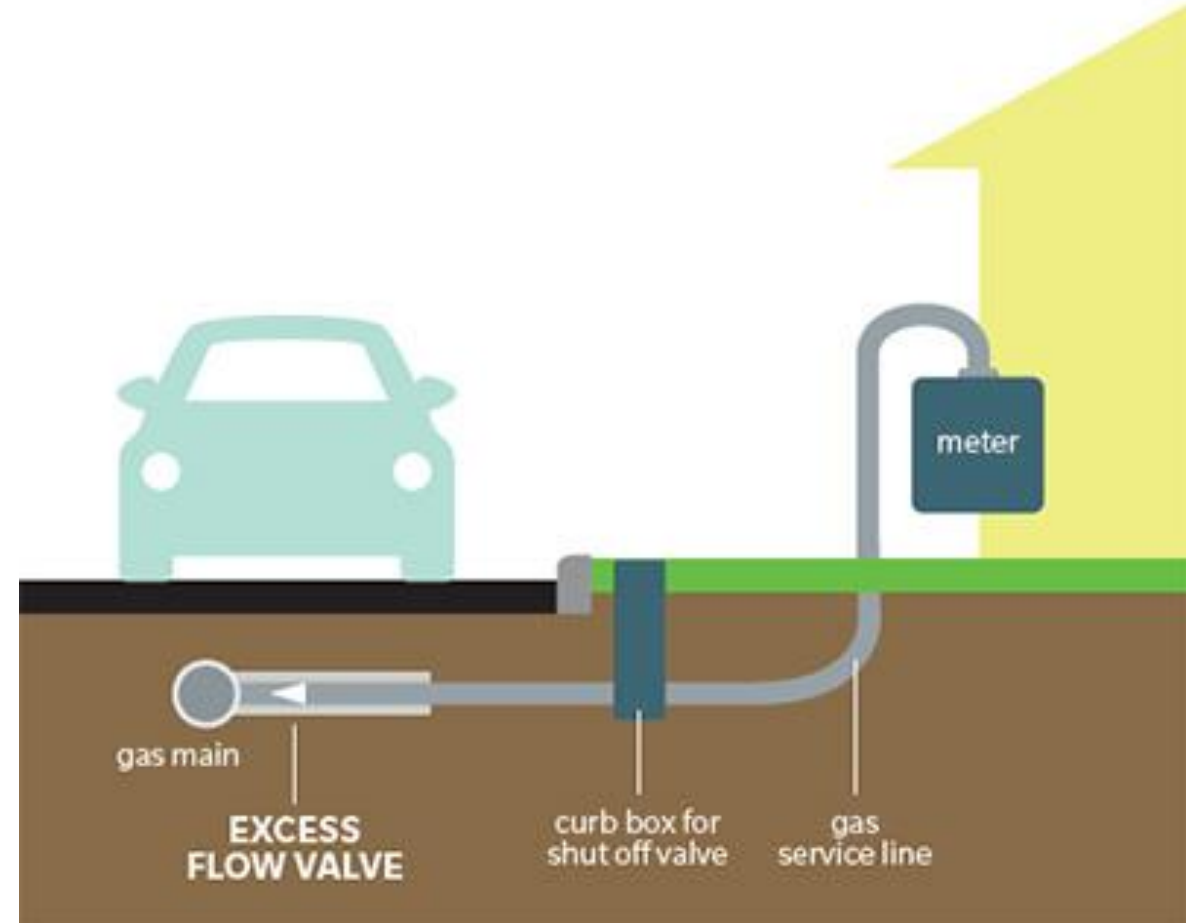


# Hit Line Response

- Contact gas utility
- Evaluate risks and identify hazards
- If possible, eliminate ignition sources
- Do not operate valves, but if it occurs do not reopen!
- Establish a safe zone around the leak
  - ✓ Do not let anyone inside
  - ✓ Do not allow ignition sources inside
  - ✓ Evacuate businesses and residences
  - ✓ Establish traffic control



# Excess Flow Valve (EFV)



# Adding water...



# Combustible Gas Indicator...



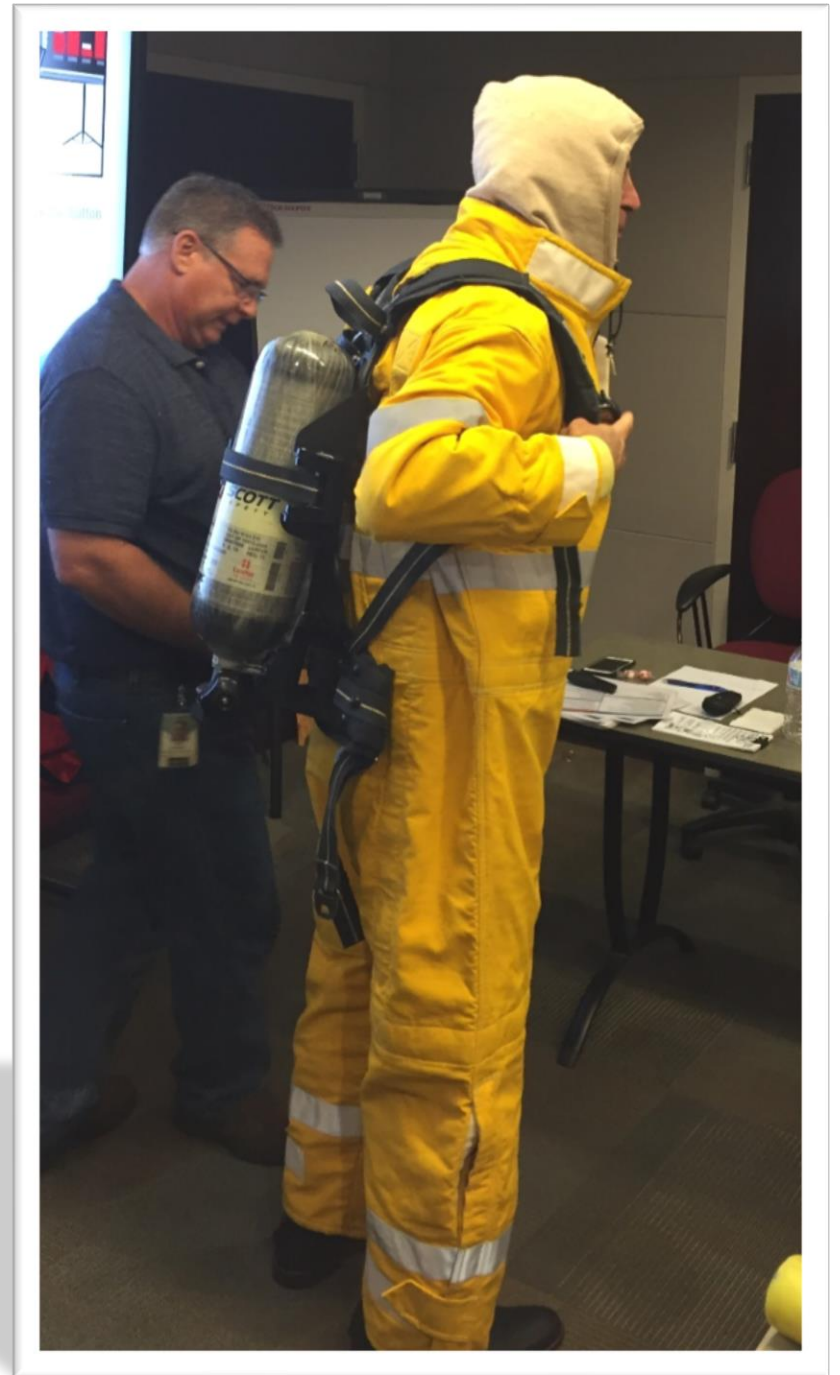
# Static Electricity

- Oklahoma Incident
- Static Mitigation
  - Wet Burlap
  - Static Spray



# Make Safe Operations

- PGS Emergency Response
  - Hot Zone
  - PPE



# Make Safe Considerations

- ✓ Public safety (migration, evacuations, etc.)
- ✓ Damaged facility
- ✓ Number of feeds
- ✓ Pressure
- ✓ Impact to customers
- ✓ Options other than hot zone entry

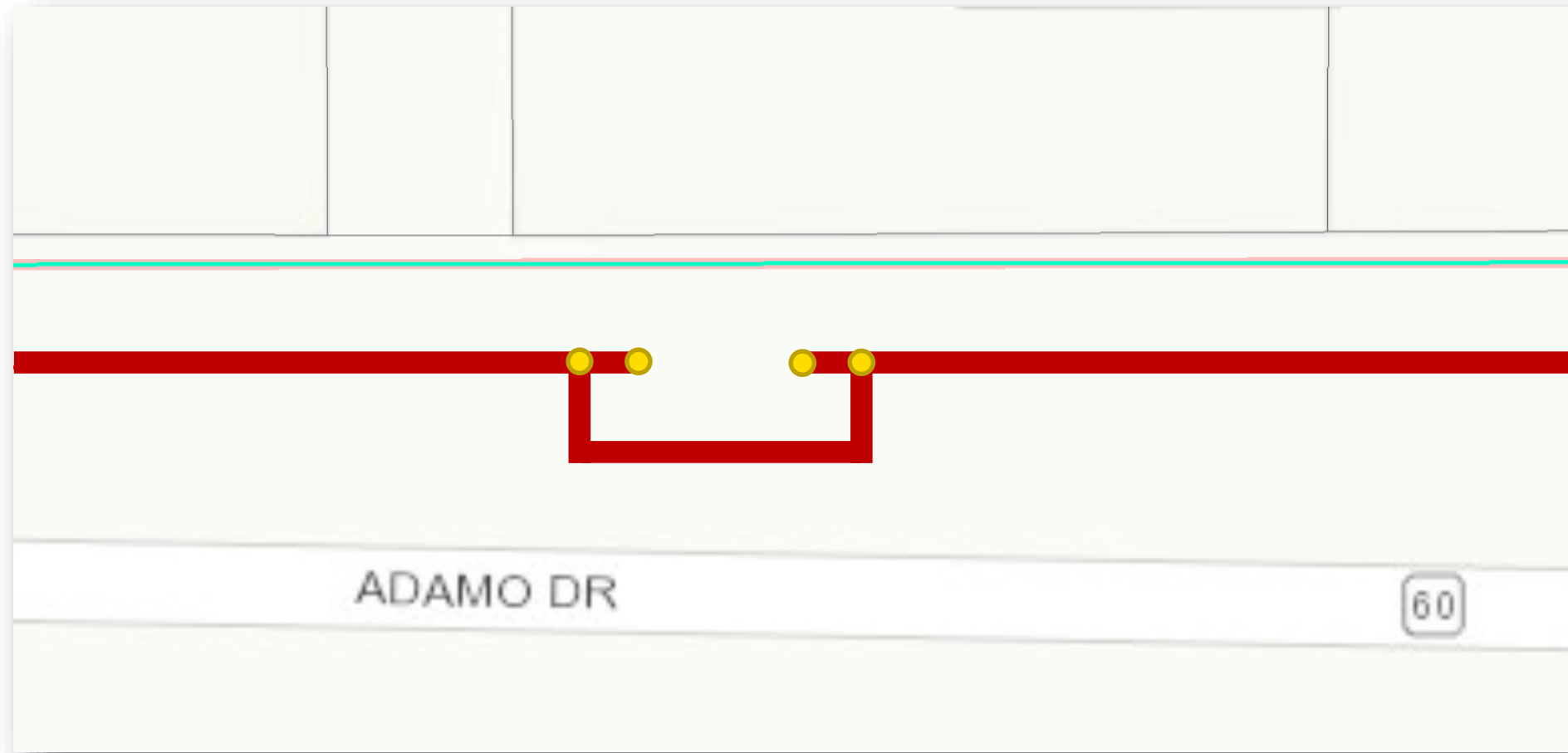




# Make Safe Options: Line Pack



# Make Safe Options: By-pass



# Make Safe Options: CNG



# Make Safe Options: Squeeze & Clamp

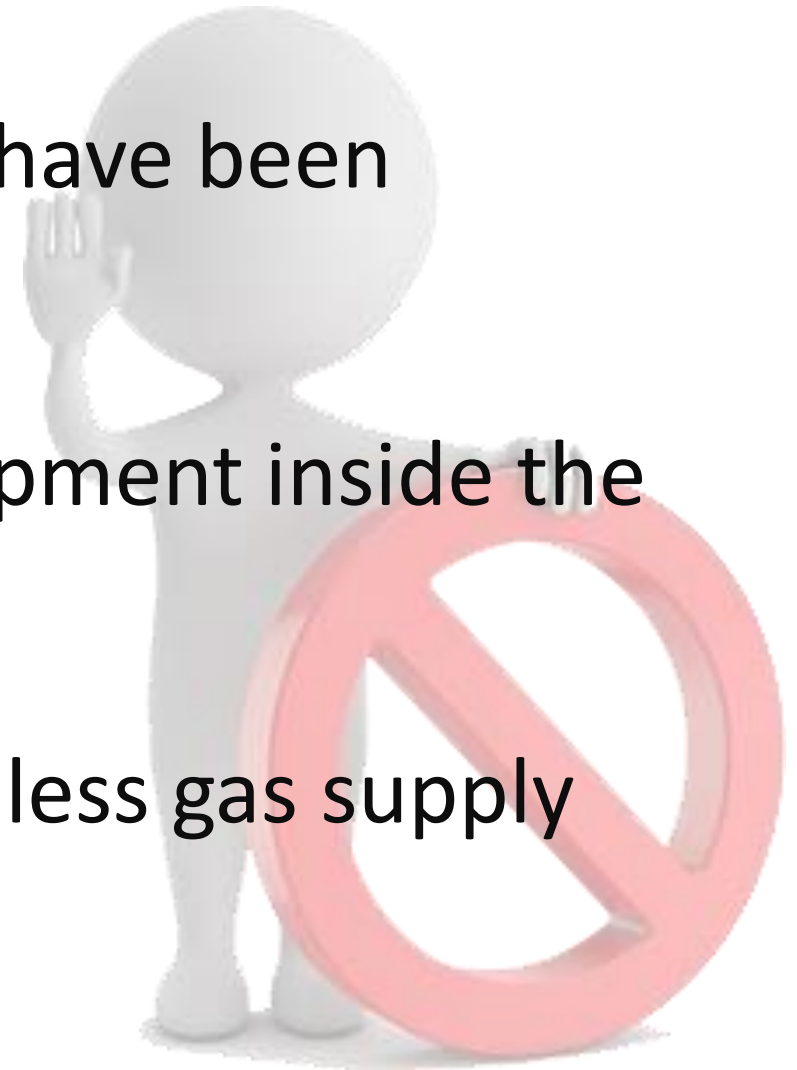


# Make Safe Options: Post Storm



# Make Safe Considerations: Ignition

- DO NOT operate valves, but if valves have been operated, DO NOT reopen!
- DO NOT attempt to operate any equipment inside the safe zone.
- DO NOT attempt to extinguish fire unless gas supply can be shut-off.



# Compressed Natural Gas



# Normal Operations

- Two PGS call centers in Florida
- On-call employees available 24/7
- GOAL: Emergency response within 60 minutes