

How Excess Flow Valves Can Affect

YOU

Excess flow valves are devices that can be installed by CenterPoint Energy on your home's or business' natural gas service line (the underground line that runs from the main line to the meter). They are designed to restrict natural gas flow when it exceeds prescribed limits, such as when a service line is damaged due to excavation or other similar activity.

In this scenario, the excess flow valve activates to help prevent the buildup of gas — reducing the chance of natural gas fires and explosions, personal injury, and property damage. Excess flow valves are not able to protect against leaks beyond the meter assembly (i.e., your house piping).

With or without an excess flow valve, these damages can be avoided by following the law and calling 811 (or your local One Call Center) to mark the location of underground utilities at least 48 hours before excavation.

Federal law now requires excess flow valves to be installed on newly constructed or replaced natural gas lines, although some exceptions apply due to operating limitations. On existing service lines, it's up to the customer (that's you!) to choose to install one at his or her own expense. Cost can vary depending on how difficult the installation is, but most CenterPoint Energy customers can expect an average price of about \$800. Once installed, there is no cost to the customer to maintain.

Are you curious if your home or business has an excess flow valve? Want to learn more about having one installed? Contact CenterPoint Energy at the customer service phone number listed on your bill, or check out frequently asked questions at CenterPointEnergy.com/ExcessFlowValve.



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