

A Month That Should Not Be Ignored

April did not pass quietly.

Across the country, from small towns in Illinois and Pennsylvania to neighborhoods in New York City and San Antonio, homes were leveled, families were lost, and first responders once again ran toward scenes defined by one common factor: **An undetected gas leak that became an explosion.**

Nine times in one month. Nine separate moments where something invisible turned catastrophic.



A Pattern That Is No Longer Random

In Zeigler, Illinois, a home erupted in flames after an explosion that was powerful enough to damage neighboring houses. One life was lost. For the community, it was sudden. For those who track these incidents, it was familiar.

Just days later in Lamar Township, Pennsylvania, a far more devastating scene unfolded. A home explosion, believed to be tied to propane, claimed seven lives, including children. It is difficult to process the scale of that loss. Harder still to accept that it fits a pattern we continue to see.

In Girard, Missouri, a gas-line-related explosion destroyed another home and injured both a police officer and a firefighter. In Steubenville, Ohio, yet another house was leveled, ending in a fatality and leaving more questions than answers.



One person died and one was injured in a house fire and possible explosion in Zeigler, Illinois. (Credit: KFVS)
<https://www.kfvs12.com/2026/04/16/deadly-house-fire-possible-explosion-under-investigation-zeigler-ill/>



Woman, her 6 children killed in explosion at Pennsylvania home. (Credit: WTAE)
<https://www.wtae.com/article/pennsylvania-home-explosion-seven-dead/71073584>

From Neighborhoods to Infrastructure

Not every incident occurred inside a home.

In Etoile, Texas, a natural gas well erupted into a fire that could be seen for miles, forcing evacuations and reminding us that gas-related risk extends beyond the home and into the infrastructure that supports it.

In Louisiana's St. Helena Parish, a pipeline pressure blowout sent shockwaves through a rural area, prompting evacuations across a wide radius. Even without injuries, the scale of disruption underscores how quickly gas can become a community-wide threat.

And in San Antonio, Texas two homes exploded within hours of each other, a stark reminder that these events are not only recurring but can cluster in ways that overwhelm communities and responders alike.

The Missed Opportunity

Natural gas and propane do not behave like smoke or carbon monoxide.

They can accumulate quietly.

They can concentrate in specific areas.

They can ignite in an instant.

And without a device specifically designed to detect them, they can go unnoticed until it is too late.

But in residential environments, where the majority of these incidents occur, it is still not standard.

A Different Outcome Is Possible

Imagine if, in any one of these homes, there had been an early warning.

An alert before ignition.

A signal to evacuate.

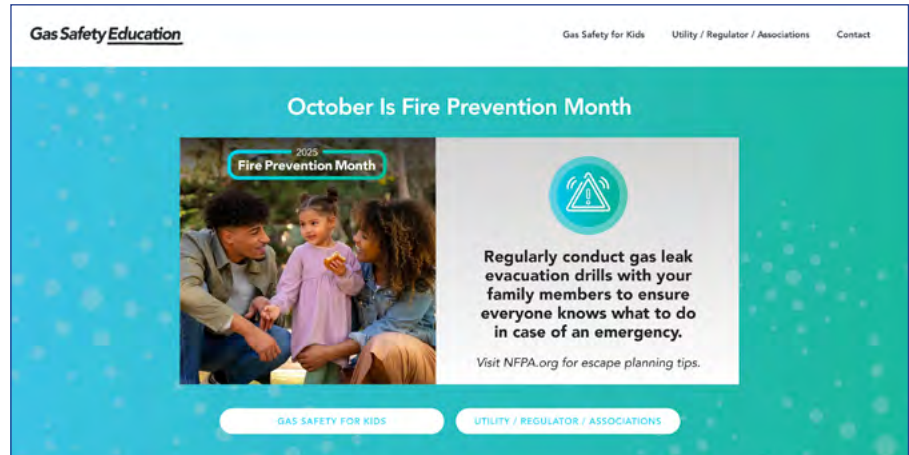
A moment – even just a few minutes – to act.

In many of these cases, that could have changed everything.

New Educational Resource from DeNova Detect

We are encouraged to share that DeNova Detect has launched a new set of resources to advance natural gas safety:

www.gassafetyeducation.com



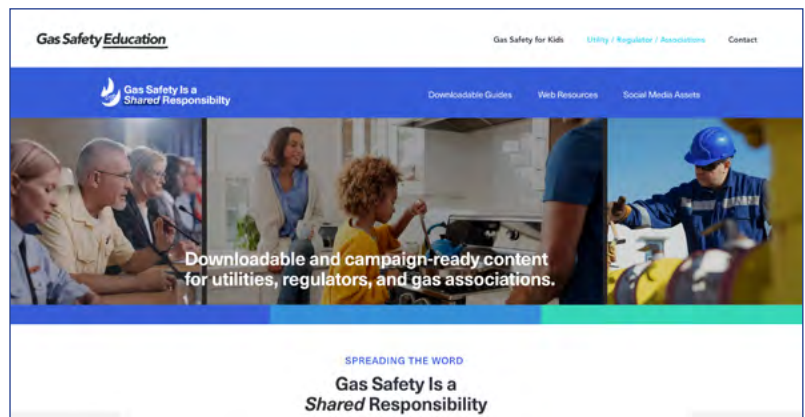
Children's Gas Safety Education Website:

Interactive tools designed to teach kids how to recognize warning signs and act quickly.

www.gassafetyeducation.com/gas-safety-for-kids

Utility Partner Resources: Materials that empower gas companies to educate customers and communities more effectively.

www.gassafetyeducation.com/utility-regulator-associations



While many people recognize the "rotten egg" odor as a sign of a gas leak, society still has a long way to go in understanding the danger of ignoring it – and the life-saving importance of evacuating the premises immediately.

Join Us in Action

Every community deserves protection. Support our work, spread the word about natural gas alarms, and encourage schools, landlords, and utilities to take action now. Together, we can prevent the next disaster.

Visit us at www.preventnaturalgasdisasters.com