### SAFETY BULLETIN

# Preventing the Next Disaster: November Gas Safety Update



The aftermath of the explosion at the Phoenix House apartments in Austintown, Ohio.

Credit: WKBN27/Youtube Saturday, Nov. 22, 2025

https://www.wkbn.com/news/local-news/explosion-phoenix-house-austintown-ohio/crews-responding-to-building-explosion-in-youngstown/

### November 2025: Combustible Fuel Incident Snapshot 9 Natural Gas related explosions with 22 injured

In November, 15 combustible fuel explosions were recorded across 11 states, resulting in at least 25 injuries and significant property damage. While no fatalities were documented in this month's data, the impact on communities remains substantial.

**Ohio** led the month with four incidents, including a senior-living explosion in **Austintown injuring 10 people and a dramatic home blast in Piqua** where a neighbor rescued an occupant from the debris. Multi-unit residences and single-family homes alike saw severe damage.

Root causes for the explosions varied, from undetected leaks to equipment malfunctions. However the pattern is consistent: a small leak can become a destructive event in seconds. November's incidents emphasize the need for proactive system maintenance and wider adoption of natural gas and fuel-specific alarms to help prevent future tragedies.

**Click Here** to Download the Latest Incident Report

#### **Insurance Industry Signals Support for Natural Gas Alarm Adoption**

Across the country, the insurance industry is increasingly validating that installing natural gas alarms meaningfully reduces catastrophic loss. As gas-related incidents continue to result in multi-million-dollar claims, property damage, business interruption, and tragic injury, insurers are taking notice and beginning to reward proactive protection measures.

Several major carriers, including Amica, Farmers, Allstate, Chubb, and Cincinnati Insurance, now explicitly recognize gas leak detection systems and automatic gas shutoff valves as loss-prevention devices that qualify homeowners and property owners for premium savings.

Consumer-facing publications like Consumer Reports and Bankrate are reinforcing the trend by educating policyholders that gas leak detectors, like smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, can **earn 3–5% or more in insurance discounts** depending on the carrier and state.

As insurers continue analyzing loss data (often following major explosions) a pattern is emerging: **Preventive** alarms are an inexpensive intervention compared to the scale of claims they help avoid.

For landlords and multifamily operators, this alignment creates a powerful incentive stack:

- Lower risk of catastrophic events affecting residents and properties
- Insurance premium savings to offset purchase of alarms/installation costs
- Early compliance advantage in jurisdictions with pending mandates
- A stronger safety narrative for tenants and communities

It's our hope that insurance carriers and regulators to codify these credits more broadly, ensuring gas alarms receive the same recognition as carbon monoxide detectors did before they became standard.

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#### **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.

 $\underline{www.gassafetyeducation.com/utility-regulator-associations}$ 



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

CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR NATURAL GAS SAFETY

Working together to prevent natural gas tragedies before they happen.

Concerned Citizens of Natural Gas Safety is a national coalition of residents, community leaders, and safety advocates dedicated to preventing avoidable disasters caused by natural gas leaks and explosions. Our mission is to raise awareness, advance education, and advocate for stronger safety practices that protect families, tenants, and communities.

Learn more at <u>www.preventnaturalgasdisasters.com</u>.