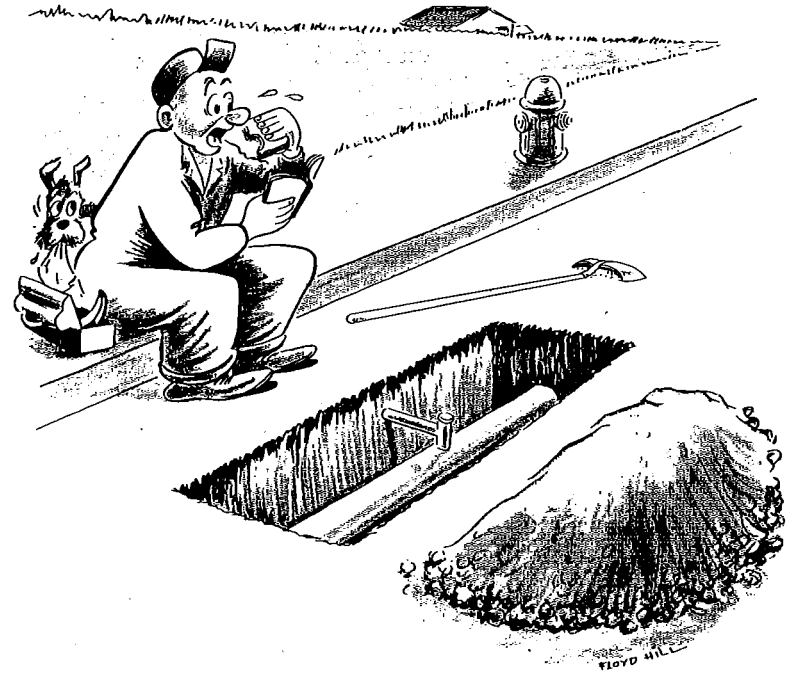


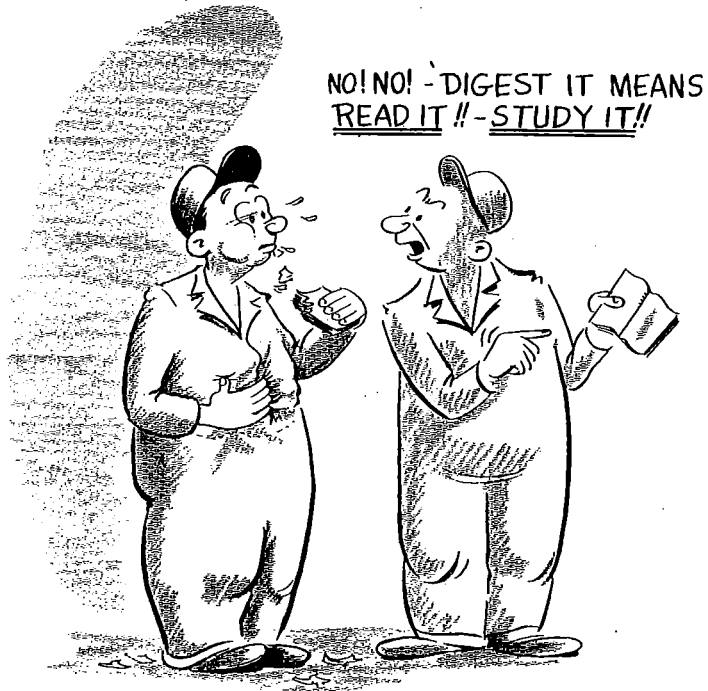
# SAFE HANDLING OF ESCAPING GAS

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY**

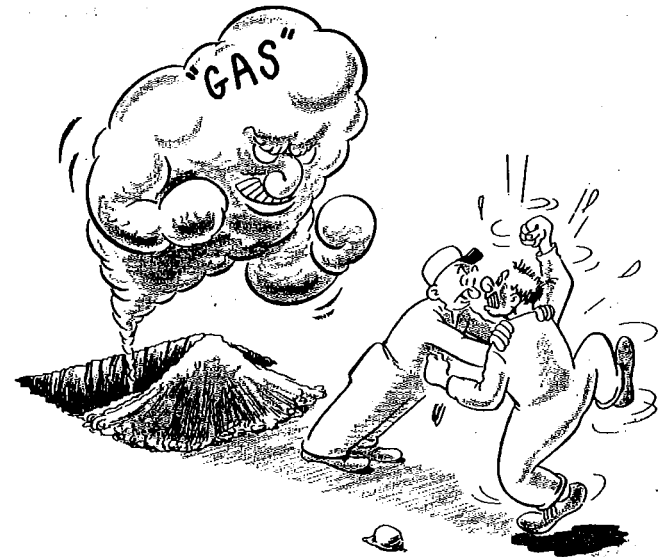
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This booklet is issued by the Southern California Gas Company to give employees some basic safe practices that will help prevent accidents due to escaping gas.

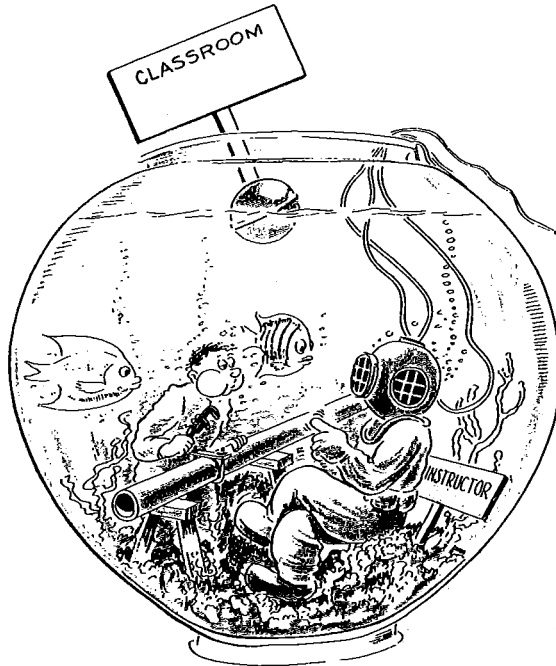


Every word written here should be read and digested by all crew members. What is written here is the policy of the Company. Failure to observe this policy may be cause for disciplinary action.



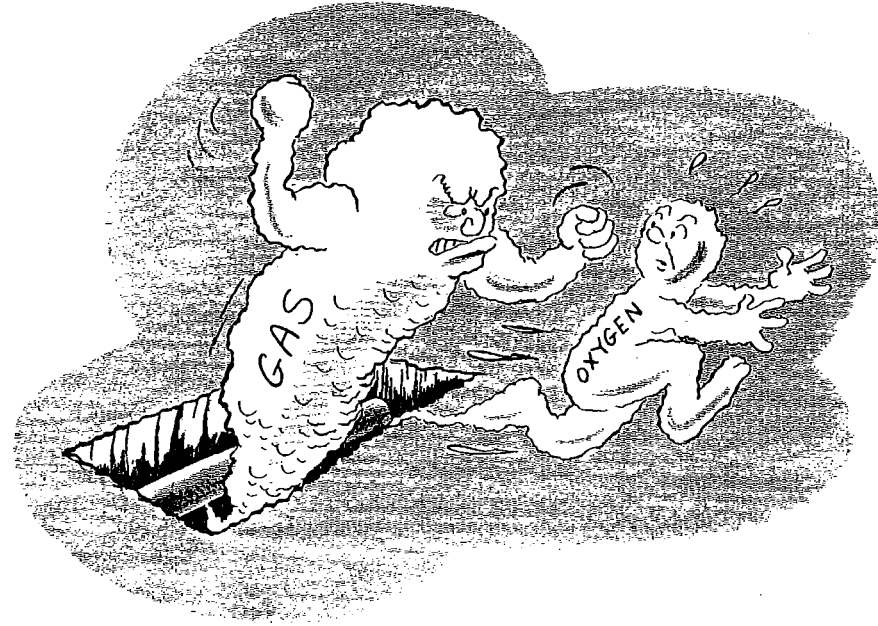
The Company desires to have its work performed safely. The basic safety policy of the Company is that no employee shall be subjected to unnecessary risk. It is the Company's view that an employee who works in an oxygen deficient atmosphere without due regard to safe practices is taking an unnecessary risk and is being exposed to the possibility of serious injury.

A workman cannot live in an atmosphere where there is no oxygen any longer than he can live under water. A single full breath of gas, without oxygen, demands another breath immediately. A few seconds of this and a person becomes unconscious from lack of oxygen. Even though natural gas is non-toxic, it is undesirable to breathe because it contains insufficient oxygen to support life.

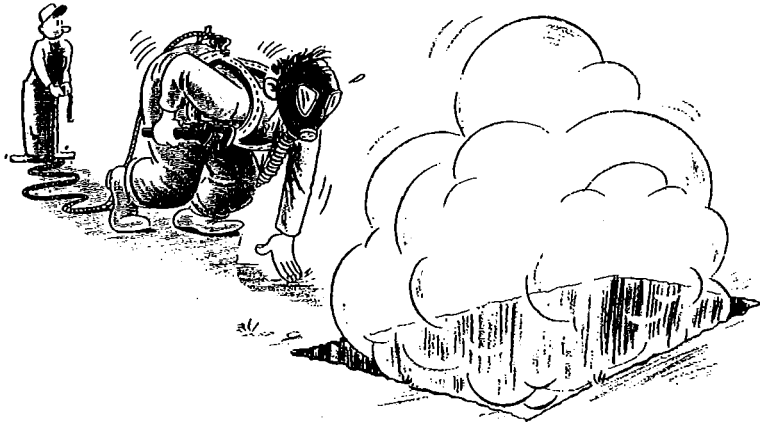


In most cases, there is no warning to the man who is being overcome by lack of oxygen. He is sure everything is fine until he loses consciousness. However, to an observer he may appear to go into slow motion. The reason is not that he is poisoned, he simply doesn't get air into his lungs and as a result, he suffocates.

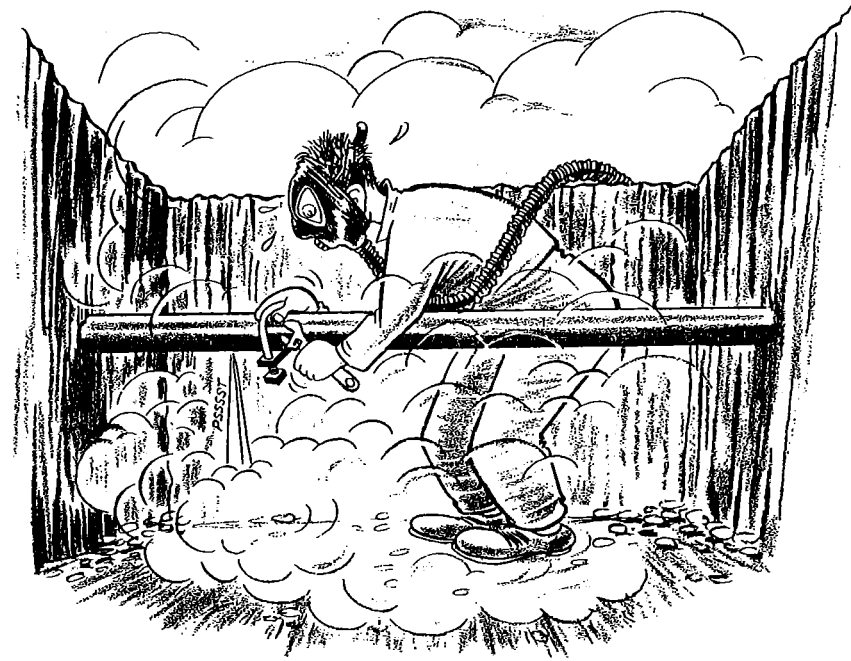
Without breathing apparatus, a man cannot work in an atmosphere without a sufficient amount of oxygen any longer than he can hold his breath.



Leaking gas can replace the oxygen in an excavation, vault or any confined space. A small leak may be enough to replace the oxygen in a deep, narrow bellhole. A big leak may not replace the oxygen in a large excavation.



The Company furnishes Fresh Air Masks which are to be worn each time a man enters an excavation or space where there is likely to be insufficient oxygen. If the excavation is more than 4' deep, he must wear a harness as well, and have a man on top to pull him out in case of trouble. If the hole is deep enough, or if it will take two men to get the man out, two men shall be available for the job.

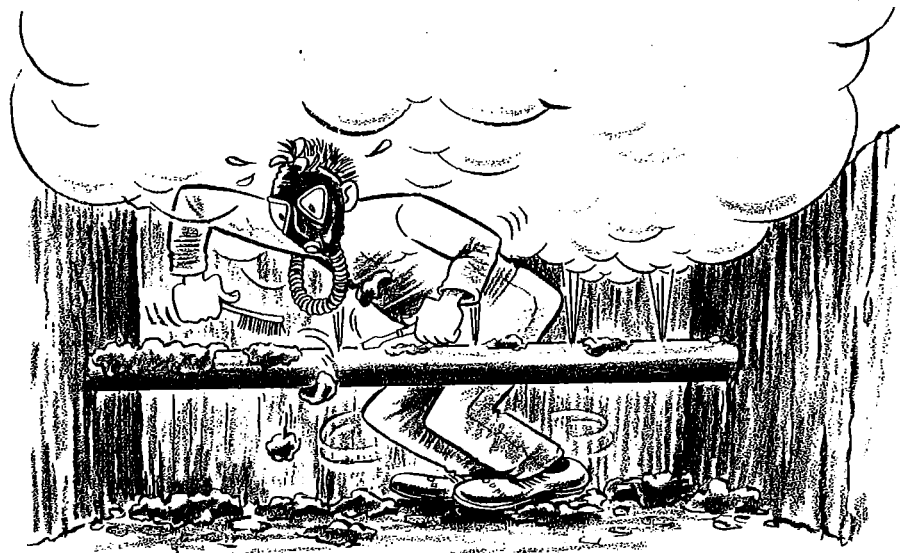


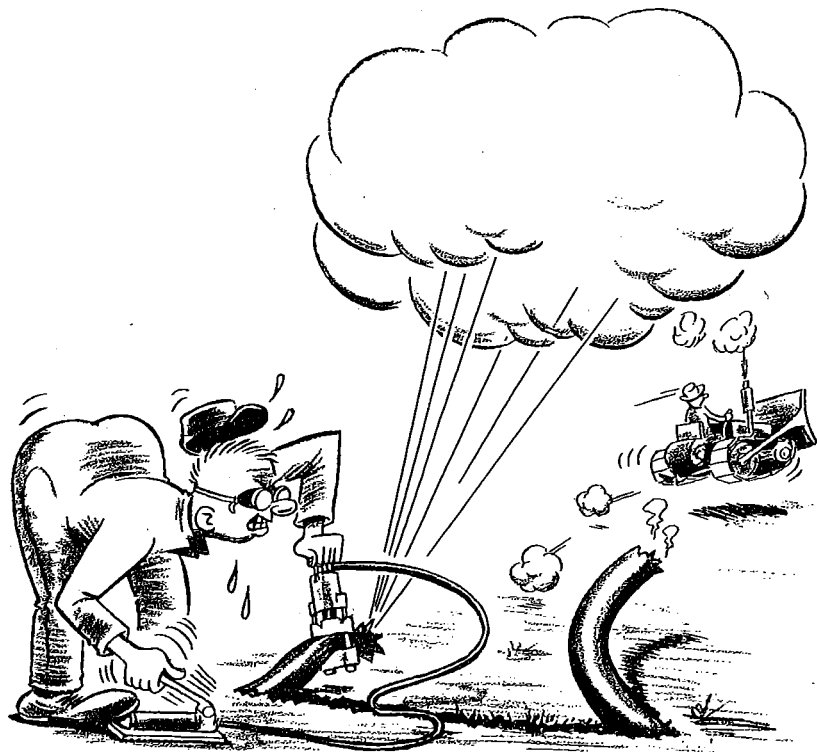
Oxygen may be completely replaced by gas in a bell-hole if the leak is on the bottom of a pipe. It makes no difference whether it is high or low pressure if the bell-hole is narrow. Gas bouncing off the bottom of the excavation drives oxygen out very fast. In such cases, wear the fresh air mask.

A medium or high pressure leak on top of the pipeline probably would not cause an oxygen deficiency in a bellhole. The velocity of the gas, unless it bounced off the wall of the ditch, would tend to create air circulation. In this case, the fresh air mask may not be required.



A number of small leaks on top of a pipe could create an oxygen deficiency. If there is any doubt, wear the FRESH AIR MASK.



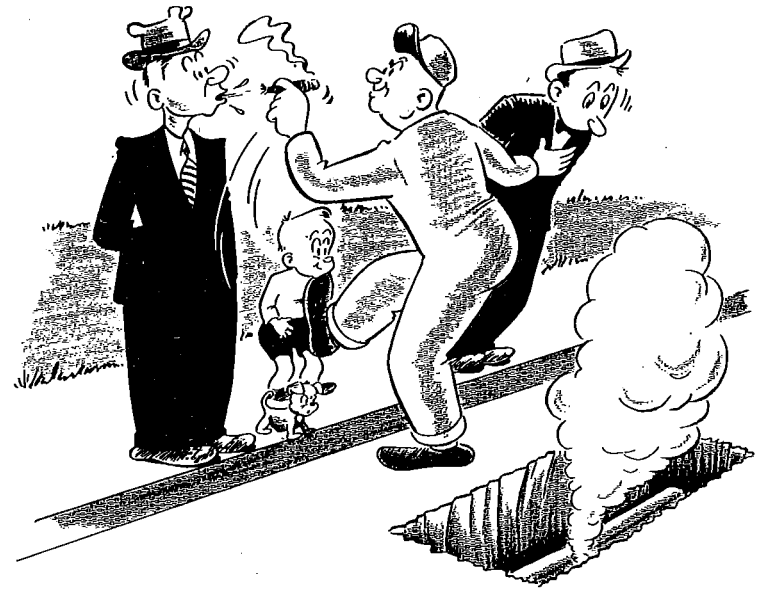
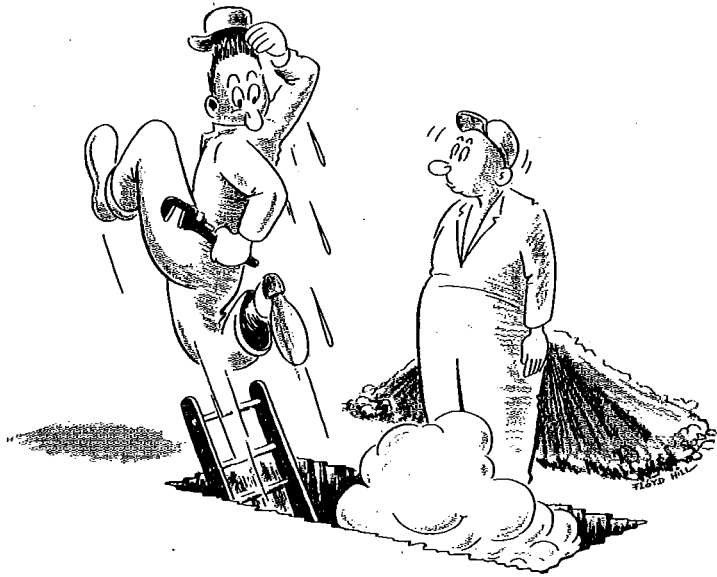


A broken pipe pulled above ground would probably not create an oxygen deficiency, therefore, the Fresh Air Mask may not be required.



A large quantity of gas coming out of the ground could create an oxygen deficiency. If there is any doubt, wear the FRESH AIR MASK.

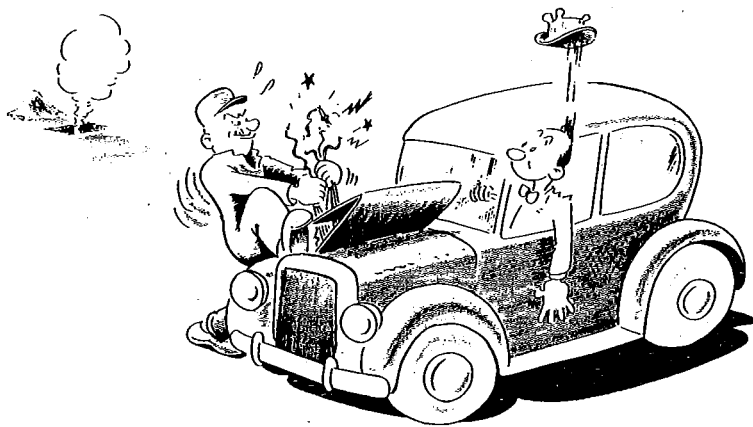
If a leak starts blowing while a man is in a bellhole he must get out at once unless the leak can be controlled before the oxygen is replaced with gas. If there is any possibility that the oxygen has been replaced in the bell-hole, he must then put on the FRESH AIR MASK, make sure all sources of ignition are out and then make a repair.



If a job calls for working in an oxygen deficient atmosphere and the job is not one which must be done immediately, the crew leader shall arrange to have the Fresh Air Mask brought to the job, meanwhile protecting the public from the leak and the leak from the public.



Fire is always a hazard when gas is present in any quantity. Fire cannot take place without a source of ignition. It is the responsibility of the crew leader to see to it that all possible sources of ignition are kept at a safe distance. This includes smokers, running engines, lighted lanterns, incinerators, pilot lights and anything else which might cause the escaping gas to ignite.



# REMEMBER!!

Safe handling of Escaping Gas

depends on your

**GOOD JUDGEMENT**

***Don't Take Unnecessary Risks!!***