Bath Township Fire Department			Standard Operating Guideline	
Section Operations	**Referral No.** O-37	**Subject:** Gas Leaks – No Fire or Explosion	**Date Issued** 3/08	**Date Revised** 3/08

Purpose:

- To provide guidelines for the proper response to gas leaks with no report of fire or explosion.

Scope:

- This standard operating guideline shall apply to all personnel.

Responsibilities:

- Incident Commander
  - Ensure that personnel respond properly.
  - Provide direction based on the Incident Management System.
  - Ensure the safety of all personnel.
- Personnel
  - All personnel have the responsibility of following the direction of Incident Command at an emergency scene.
  - All personnel have the responsibility to wear the proper safety equipment and to operate in a safe manner.

General:

- **Safety is always our first priority**
- Calls for "odor of gas," "gas leak," "broken gas line" and similar situations may range from minor to potentially major incidents.
  - **All of these should be approached as potentially dangerous situations.**
- With gas company personnel on the scene of an incident, it shall be standard procedure for the first fire department unit to provide effective interaction between agencies.
  - Gas company personnel shall be responsible for locating and eliminating leak sources.
  - Gas company personnel shall obtain a sufficient number of gas concentration readings, using their combustible gas indicators for Command to evaluate the hazard and take appropriate action.
- In all cases, fire department units shall take whatever actions are necessary to provide for life and property safety.
- A minimum number of personnel should be allowed to enter the area to size-up the situation while any additional units stage in a location out of the potentially dangerous zone.

Guidelines:

- Evacuate any civilians in the area of escaping gas.
- Attempt to locate the source of the gas and any shutoff devices available.
- Gas leak situations within a building where the source of the leak is unknown or uncontrolled, the gas supply shall be shut off at the meter.
- Command shall ensure the meter is red-tagged and locked off until repairs are completed.
    - This is most easily accomplished with the cooperation of the gas supplier at the scene.
- If there is any indication of gas accumulating within a building, evacuate civilians from the structure and control ignition sources.
- Check for explosive concentrations with a combustible gas indicator (LEL) if there is any suspicion of accumulation within a structure.
    - LEL measures the % of LEL at a particular location, even low % LEL readings indication an explosive atmosphere.
- Shut off electrical power from an outside breaker, if no LEL is found near the shut-off point.
- Ventilate, using intrinsically safe blowers, to pressurize if necessary.
    - The use of natural ventilation is preferred.
- If gas company personnel must excavate to shut off a leak, provide stand-by protection with a charged 1-¾ inch line and two firefighters in full protective equipment and SCBA.

PERSONNEL SAFETY:

- All personnel working in the vicinity of a known or suspected gas leak shall wear full protective clothing with SCBA's.
- Personnel working in a suspected ignitable atmosphere (i.e., attempting to shut off a gas line) shall use SCBA and shall be covered by a protective hose-line.
- **The number of exposed personnel will be kept to an absolute minimum at all times**.
- A Limited Access Zone shall be established and maintained around any suspected gas leak and "fire line" tape should be used to identify the Limited Access Zone when necessary.
- A lobby sector shall be established for personnel control and accountability and where necessary, a hazard sector should be established.