

You should know...



North Dakota Public Service Commission

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North Dakota Public
Service Commission

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Excess Flow Valves (for Natural Gas Lines)

The United States Department of Transportation has issued a new pipeline safety regulation requiring natural gas utility companies notify customers about the availability of Excess Flow Valves (EFV) for installation on the natural gas service line to their home. You may have received information from your utility in the mail or included with your bill. Included below are some frequently asked questions that may help you make the decision about whether to have the valve installed at your home.

What is an Excess Flow Valve?

An Excess Flow Valve (EFV) is a mechanical safety device installed on a gas service line. In the event of damage to the gas service line between the main line and the gas meter, the EFV will minimize the flow of gas through the service line.

Am I required to to have an EFV installed?

An EFV is not mandatory. Customers can choose to have an EFV installed for a fee if their service is eligible. EFVs are not available for some customers due to the amount of gas used, areas with delivery pressure less than 10psi or other circumstances. Federal code requires the installation of an EFV on new and replaced gas service lines to residential customers.

How do the valves work?

A spring pushes a valve open against the oncoming gas flow. Sensing a change in pressure, the spring forces the valve closed, minimizing the flow of gas. EFVs are designed so that when your gas appliances are operating normally, the flow is not enough to push the valve shut. However, if the line is damaged there is enough flow to push the valve shut. After the EFV operates, the gas pressure continues pushing on the valve, keeping the valve closed until the correct pressure is restored. When gas lines are repaired and service is restored, the valve automatically resets itself.

Will an EFV stop or reduce the flow of natural gas inside my home?

No. EFVs are designed to stop the flow of gas in a service line when the line has an excessive amount of flow, primarily due to being damaged by excavation. An EFV does not protect against leaks beyond the gas meter or slow leaks on the service line.

Excess Flow Valves (cont.)

How much will it cost if I request an EFV be installed on my line?

Utilities in North Dakota have estimated anywhere from \$650 to \$1,200 for a typical installation, but the cost will vary for each customer depending on the location of the line. Utility companies will provide estimates to customers upon request. Required installations being done on new or replaced lines will be completed at no cost to the customer.

How is the valve installed? What should I expect?

The EFV is installed underground on the service line that runs between the gas main and your gas meter. Generally the valve is installed as close as possible to the gas main. The installation will involve digging in your yard or right-of-way and could involve pavement and/or landscape removal to expose the main or service line. Utilities will restore your property after the work is complete and those costs are included in the fee for installation.

Should I install an EFV for my home?

The information in this fact sheet is being provided to help you make that decision. Home-owners should weigh the safety benefits with the cost involved and make an informed decision.

It's important to remember that an EFV does not protect against any/all natural gas leaks. The valve is designed to prevent the continuous flow of natural gas on a service line if damage occurs that results in a leak significant enough in size to cause the valve to activate and stop the flow of natural gas. The EFV will not be activated by all leaks, but does provide protection if an underground pipe is broken or severed. Such damage is usually the result of some type of excavation. To prevent such incidents, it's important to ensure that anyone excavating on your property has called 811 to have underground service lines marked before digging.

Please contact your gas utility provider for more information, to discuss if your home is eligible for an EFV, or to request an estimate for installation costs.