

Centreville, Virginia Guide to Terms

Washington Gas is providing these terms and definitions to help you better understand some of the technical language used in the gas industry. In situations involving natural gas systems, communication can sometimes include specialized terminology. By offering this guide, we aim to improve transparency, reduce confusion, and offer information that you may find helpful to follow our updates.

Aeration

A process used to remove accumulated gases – like natural gas or methane – from structures or confined spaces by introducing forced air, commonly using fans, to encourage dissipation safely into the air.

Aspiration

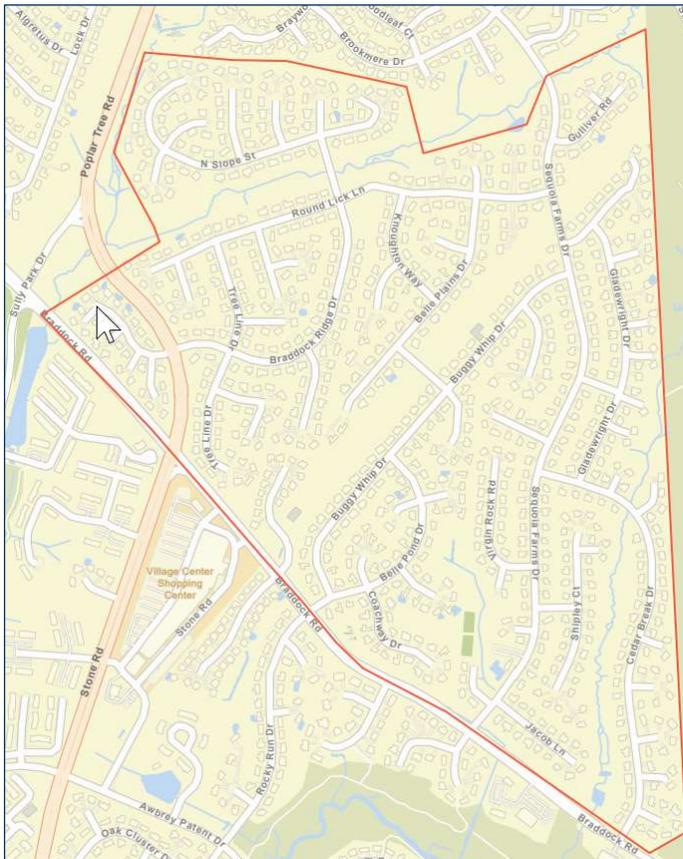
A process used to remove accumulated gases – like natural gas or methane – from the ground by introducing suction to draw residual gas from the ground.

Baseline Leak Survey

A baseline survey is an initial data set collected before an intervention, process change, or repair. It serves as a reference point for comparing later measurements to evaluate change, progress, or performance over time. These measurements are critical for assessing the effectiveness of improvement.

Expanded Area

As it relates to the Centreville incident, the broader neighborhood zone included in additional gas leak monitoring. See map below.



Grade 1 Leak

Any leak presenting an immediate or probable hazard to persons or property. Grade 1 leaks require immediate action to clear or continuous action until the condition is no longer hazardous.

Grade 2 Leak

A leak that is non-hazardous at the time of discovery but requires scheduling for repair within 12 months under normal operations. In our current plan, these repairs will occur within a week and will be monitored continuously until repaired.

Grade 3 Leak

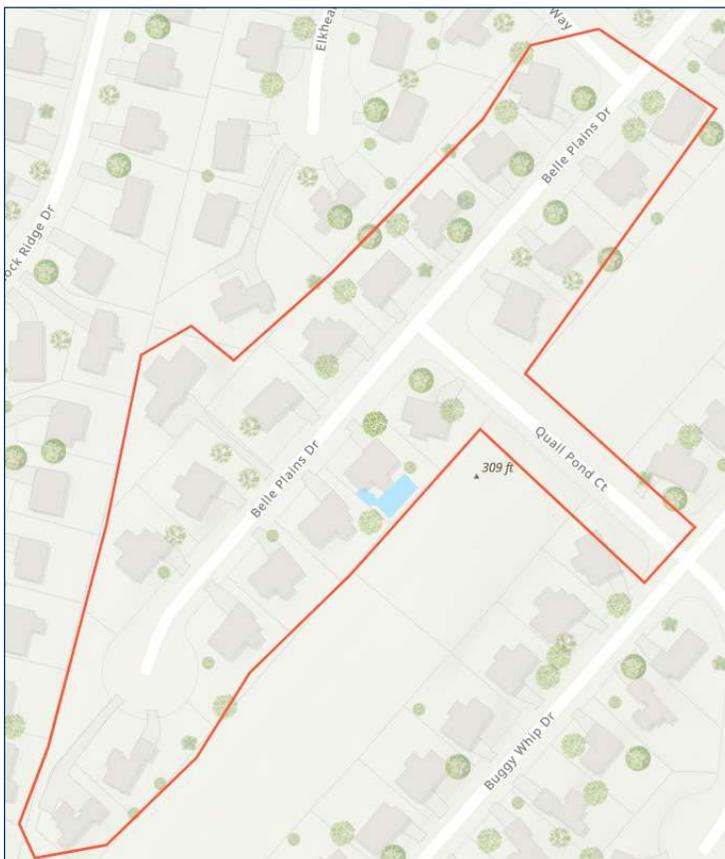
A non-hazardous leak expected to remain safe. These are normally monitored annually and repaired at the discretion of the company. However, in our current plan, we will schedule Grade 3 leaks for repair as soon as reasonably possible.

Bar Holes

Small holes in the ground that allow for gas detection equipment to identify leaks beneath the surface of topsoil. These holes are typically created by driving a rod or bar into the ground or by drilling, in the case of hard surfaces.

Immediate Area

The specific zone closest to the incident site defined by Washington Gas, covering certain addresses on Belle Plains Dr and Quail Pond Ct. See map below.



Leak Survey

An inspection of a pipeline system to detect or locate gas leaks using equipment that measures gas concentrations encountered.

Main Line

The larger pipeline located under the street that distributes natural gas through a neighborhood. Also referred to a gas main.

Monitoring

The structured stages of a monitoring plan we are currently conducting in Centreville, with survey frequency decreasing only after meeting safety criteria (e.g., no new leaks, successful surveys). This plan was approved by the Virginia State Corporation Commission and Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department.

- Phase 1: four times per day
- Phase 2: once per day
- Phase 3: once per week
- Phase 4: every other week

Re-lighting

The process of re-supplying natural gas to homes and turning gas appliances back on after service is restored and operating safely.

Residual Gas

Natural gas that remains present in the soil after a leak has occurred and the source has been identified and contained. This naturally dissipates over time.

Service Line

The smaller pipeline that carries natural gas from the main line in the street to an individual home.

Walking Survey

A leak survey conducted entirely on foot, which allows technicians to closely inspect and take measurements over main lines, service lines, and the surrounding areas.