

<b>MANUAL:</b> HEALTH & SAFETY	<b>HOME SPECIFIC NAME:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fairfield Park</li> <li>✓ Brouillette Manor</li> <li>○ LaPointe-Fisher Nursing Home</li> <li>○ Corporate</li> </ul>
<b>TITLE:</b> CODE ORANGE – GAS LEAK	<b>SECTION:</b> EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
	<b>PAGES:</b> 3

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** MAY 2000, SEPT 2017

**REVISED:** JUNE 2022

**POLICY:**

The home shall have an emergency plan for gas leaks. The emergency code denoting this situation shall be “Code Orange”.

**DEFINITIONS:**

Carbon monoxide - a poisonous, colourless, odourless and tasteless gas. The following symptoms are related to carbon monoxide poisoning:

- ✓ Mild Exposure: light headache, nausea, vomiting, fatigue (often described as flu like symptoms).
- ✓ Medium Exposure: severe throbbing headache, drowsiness, confusion and a fast heart rate.
- ✓ Extreme Exposure: unconsciousness, convulsions, cardio respiratory failure.

Natural gas – on its own it is an odourless gas; however most providers purposely add a strong artificial smell (i.e. rotten eggs, sewage or skunk) to their natural gas to help identify a leak. The following are symptoms related to extreme/high levels of natural gas exposure: fatigue, severe headaches, memory problems, loss of concentration.

**PROCEDURES:**

**TRAINING & EDUCATION**

Staff shall be trained on this plan upon hire and provided with refresher education annually thereafter.

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Residents and/or their legal representative shall be provided with a copy of this plan upon admission

### TESTING OF PLAN

This plan shall be tested annually.

### ACTIVATION OF PLAN

#### Carbon Monoxide

An alarm shall trigger on the carbon monoxide detector indicating a possible concern. These detectors are located:

- ✓ South Hall: next to the fire hose cabinet
  - Yellow light: warning and beeps every three seconds.
  - Red light: a constant alarm which beeps in a pattern of 4.5 seconds on and 1.5 seconds off
  
- ✓ Kitchen: in dining room by the kitchen entry door
  - Yellow light: warning and beeps every three seconds.
  - Red light: a constant alarm which beeps in a pattern of 4.5 seconds on and 1.5 seconds off

#### If alarm sounds:

1. RN/ Supervisor shall announce “Code Orange – Location” over the P.A. system to alert the entire building.
2. Notify Maintenance Manager or Director of Environmental Services Supervisor if in the building or RN Supervisor, in their absence.
3. Evacuate and ventilate the immediate area (open windows).
4. RN to check for symptoms of exposure described above. If there are no symptoms, push the reset button.
5. Call 911 immediately & get fresh air into the premises if the red light is on and alarm sounding.
6. The Fire Department, upon arrival will measure the carbon monoxide level and determine the course of action to be followed.

#### Natural Gas

1. Notify Maintenance Manager or Director of Environmental Services Supervisor if in the building or RN Supervisor, in their absence.
2. If the odour cannot be explained (i.e. burnt out ballast) call 911.
3. Announce Code Orange – Location over P.A. system to alert entire building.

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4. Evacuate and ventilate the immediate area (open windows).
5. The Fire Department, upon arrival will measure the carbon monoxide level and determine the course of action to be followed.

**EVACUATION**

In the event an evacuation of the home is required, refer to the emergency plan, “Code Green – Evacuation”.

**REPORTING**

Review Critical Incident/Mandatory Reporting procedure and complete, if required.

**COMMUNICATION**

The Home shall communicate to residents, substitute decision-makers, if any, staff, volunteers, students, caregivers, the Residents’ Council and the Family Council, if any, on the emergency in the home

- ✓ at the beginning of the emergency,
- ✓ when there is a significant change throughout the course of the emergency
- ✓ when the emergency is declared over

**RECOVERY**

1. A debrief is provided for residents, substitute decision-makers, staff, volunteers and students involved.
2. The Administrator or delegate will ensure resumption of regular operations of the home takes place (i.e. coordinate with managers, service providers and support workers to ensure all essential services are in place)
3. Coordination with Social Services to meet with residents, families and staff who may have experienced distress during the emergency, to offer support and resources.

**EVALUATION**

The emergency plan shall be evaluated annually and updated, if needed. If the plan has been activated, it shall be evaluated within 30 days of the emergency being declared over and updated, if needed.

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