

Methane Gas Alarm for Food Trucks and Trailers

Information Sheet

- **What is a methane gas detector?**
 - A methane gas leak detector, or a methane detector, is a **piece of sensing equipment designed to monitor the presence of methane gas in a given environment**. Typically, these devices provide accurate and quick information on the presence of methane gas. Many are designed using a laser light system for detection.
- **How does a methane gas detector work?**
 - The methane gas in the sampling chamber absorbs light at specific wavelengths. A filter in front of the detector blocks out light that is not at the desired wavelength, so the detector measures the attenuation at the specified wavelength only, which is used to determine the concentration of methane present.
- **Why do I need a methane detector?**
 - **Methane is extremely flammable, so just one spark of a lighter can quickly turn a gas leak into a fire or explosion**. That is why discovering gas leaks immediately is so important, and – while you can rely on your nose most of the time – the safest way to confirm your suspicions is to install a natural gas detector.
- **Do carbon monoxide detectors detect methane gas?**
 - It's important to know that natural gas is different from smoke carbon monoxide. While smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are a critical part of protecting your home and family, **they will not detect a natural gas leak**; you'll need a natural gas detector for that.

- **What does methane gas smell like?**
 - Methane is an **odorless, colorless, flammable gas**. It is used primarily as fuel to make heat and light. It is also used to manufacture organic chemicals. Methane can be formed by the decay of natural materials and is common in landfills, marshes, septic systems and sewers. Natural gas has no odor. **Gas companies add a harmless chemical called mercaptan to give it its distinctive “rotten egg” smell.**
- **Will methane set off a propane detector?**
 - **Yes it does.** Propane gas leak detectors are combustibles gas leak detectors, which means they are sensitive to combustible gases such as natural gas, which is mostly made up of methane gas.
- **Where do you put a methane detector?**
 - Install your natural gas detectors in **locations close to sources of natural gas**. This includes, placing them in any room with windows or a gas appliance such as your kitchen and your basement. When adding to a room with windows, be sure to position natural gas detectors higher than all doors and windows.
- **What height should methane gas detectors be mounted?**
 - Heavier than air gases should typically be detected 6 inches from the floor, lighter than air gas sensors should typically be placed on or near the ceiling, and gases which have a density close to that of air should have sensors installed in the "breathing zone" **4 - 6 ft (1.2 - 1.8 m) from the floor.**