



MCFRS SPECIAL OPERATIONS

5-MINUTE DRILL – HIGH LEVEL LEL READINGS

MCFRS personnel recently responded to a residential gas leak where they encountered high LEL readings operating inside the structure. For approximately six minutes, crews operated between 40 and 67% LEL readings attempting to locate the interior meter. While the outcome was favorable on this incident, crews should rarely if ever operate in a flammable gas environment greater than 10% LEL without a known rescue.

This incident and recent meter shop inquiries also show that there are misunderstandings in using the Ventis and Sensit meters together when responding to gas leaks. Personnel should review all operations procedures for both meters and their specific uses.

REMINDERS

Anytime you encounter 10% or greater LEL:

- **Only enter the hazard area to make a known rescue using extreme caution**
- Isolate and Deny Entry
- Establish a Hot Zone
- Request additional resources
- Control ignition sources if possible
- Work with the natural gas utility/propane supplier to shut off the source away from the building or outside leak
- Ventilate knowing it could go “boom” if the concentrations of flammable gas and air are just right
- Safely check the structure/area to confirm no hazards

