Gas Leak Survey Basics

MBS Engineering has performed thousands of natural gas leak surveys and repairs. We spend money on technology to expedite leak discovery times, and repairs. We make repairs on-site and present GPS-pinpointed, beautiful final survey reports. This handout explains gas leak surveys (inspections), misconceptions, equipment we use, and what to expect from a gas leak survey.

Gas Leak Misconceptions

Misconception 1: Your Gas Utility Fixes Leaks On Your Property

Your gas provider is not responsible for either the lines, fittings, hardware or devices on your property. They are responsible for the larger gas operations that procure, filter, pressurize and ferry gas to your property. If a gas utility does manage to detect a leak on your property, they will often shut down the property until the leak is fixed.

Misconception 2: Gas Lines, Fittings, Valves And Regulators Don't Need Maintenance

The reality is that much of California's private and even public gas infrastructure is aging, and much of it was constructed before galvanized steel was used (for exposed roof pipe, for example), and before polyethylene piping was used subgrade (underground). Needless to say, recent innovations like seismic shut-off valves are more often not present than present, also because of the age of most gas systems.

Misconception 3: Leak Detection Equipment Available At The Hardware Store Will Suffice

Especially over large footprint properties, the detection equipment you might pick up at Home Depot or Lowe's is woefully inadequate. They need to be walked over an area, aren't sensitive, cannot tell you the extent of a leak. MBS Engineering uses infrared and laser range scanning leak detection equipment that is largely used by utility companies and commercial contractors.

Misconception 4: If You Don't Know You Have A Gas Leak, It's Like Not Having A Leak

The absurdity of denial aside (the same could be said of cancer, until one is sick or it is terminal), as conditions deteriorate, the likelihood of a cascading or catastrophic problem grows. Whether you know about a leak or not, you can be legally liable for a gas accident that occurred because of your inaction.

Equipment Detail

MBS Engineering utilizes utility grade, state-of-the-art leak detection equipment manufactured by Heath Consultants for both walking and mobile leak detection. MBS employs fully trained and certified technicians to perform all gas leak surveys.

MBS believes in investing in the highest quality equipment and maintaining it. While it could be argued that we pass the expense along to our customers, the truth is that we save our clients money with efficient leak detection, and solutions that are based on a comprehensive and accurate assessment. Quality work depends on the finest tools.

MBS Service Trucks

After an initial assessment has been made by an MBS Engineer, MBS Field Technicians and Engineers will arrive at your property with a service truck, including specialized leak detection and repair tools, at the scheduled time, and ask for the designated contact person for the inspection.

RM-LD (Remote Methane Leak Detection)

The RM-LD is a crucial piece of equipment to perform leak detection across a large area or in hard to reach locations. The device uses a laser technology that detects methane concentration when passed through a natural gas leak. The RMLD can detect both above ground and sub-grade gas leaks.

EyeCGas

The EyeCGas made is a vital tool to verify and record gas leaks during a survey. EyeCGas uses thermal imaging to show, in real-time, the presence of gas found during a leak survey. With built in GPS location, this instrument is a great tool to confirm the existence of natural gas leaks.

DP-IR (Detecto-Pak Infrared)

The DP-IR uses an infrared optical gas detection system. It uses an internal pump to sample air and accurately measure methane concentration. Valued at over $50,000, the DP-IR is used in walking surveys. MBS also has an ATV outfitted with DP-IR sensors for mobile surveys.

The Survey Checklist

1. Survey of property natural gas lines to detect above ground and underground natural gas leaks.
2. Leaks are measured to find total concentration of natural gas present if discovered.
3. Leak is visually verified, and GPS located to present to client on site.
4. Leak is Classified (Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3)
    a. Grade 3 Leaks - Fixed immediately at Time and Material Rate.
    b. Grade 1 & Grade 2 Leaks – MBS will supply a proposal to fix leaks within 24 hours of detection.
5. Field report provided immediately following survey providing locations of Grade 1 & Grade 2 Leaks.
6. Detailed, comprehensive report provided within 24 hours of gas leak detection survey.

What Makes MBS Different?

Specialized

We only work with gas. If you are on the technical side of things, you know this, alone, is a significant difference between us and other contractors. We aren't plumbers who dabble in gas. We are gas line engineers.

Experienced

We have performed thousands of leak surveys and seen 'it all', for clients working on the vanguard of technology as well as more common commercial or industrial job profiles. We have installed tens of thousands of seismic shut-off valves.

Trusted

MBS Engineering has an excellent track record with hospitals, universities, public schools, commercial clients and California utilities - inducing transportation.

Engineers

We are gas technicians and gas contractors, yes, but we are also builders who design custom systems; we don't cut corners with the tools we use, or the solutions we deploy, or the clients we serve.

Clients Who Trust Us

Class A & C-36 Contractor License Holder; License #990872 in the state of California.

Gold Shovel Certification is a proactive indication of an increased investment in damage-prevention to drive safety, reduce damages, and minimize the risks associated with excavating on or around buried assets.