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PG&E Gas Leak-Sensing Fleet Sweeps Davis to Enhance Customer Safety

DAVIS, Calif.— Davis residents may notice an increased presence of Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) crews working in their neighborhoods next week as the utility continues its mission of becoming the safest and most reliable natural gas provider in the country. As part of a five-year leak survey and maintenance program, PG&E crews are combining the use of state-of-the-art leak detection technology with a streamlined repair process to find and fix leaks faster than ever before.

Crews will be surveying approximately 8,600 gas line services which provide natural gas to individual homes, and more than 100 miles of gas distribution pipeline within Yolo County during the week of March 21. Using a vehicle-mounted leak-detection technology that is 1,000 times more sensitive than traditional equipment, PG&E is able to identify natural gas leaks with enhanced precision and speed, and immediately schedule repairs or appropriate corrective actions. Work that would normally take four months to complete using the traditional leak survey methods can now be accomplished in as little as two weeks.



PG&E fleet vehicle with top-mounted leak sensor

“Our leak-sensing fleet can pick up even the slightest trace of natural gas and that helps us keep our customers in Davis safe. This important gas safety program is helping enhance our system so we can continue to deliver safe, reliable, affordable and clean natural gas to our customers,” said Erik Kurtz, gas superintendent for PG&E’s Sacramento Division.

If a gas leak is identified, it is designated a grade that guides appropriate follow-up action and repair. Some leaks require immediate attention while other, non-hazardous leaks are typically repaired within a two- to three-week time period. During repair work, customers may see PG&E trucks and other equipment in their neighborhoods while construction takes place on the natural gas lines, most of which are located under the street and, in some occasions, on property leading to customers’ meters.

This program creates an additional layer of protection for our customers. As part of PG&E’s commitment to safety, the company has also:

- Decommissioned all of the company's 800 miles of cast-iron pipe in its system, replacing it with stronger, more resilient and seismically sound pipe
- Opened a [new gas operations control center](#) in 2013, which employs the most advanced technology available, providing unprecedented visibility into the natural gas system and enabling a more predictive and rapid response in an emergency
- Applied new gas leak-detection technology that is [1,000 times more sensitive](#) than traditional methods in order to help find and fix leaks before they become a problem
- Established itself as one of the fastest in the entire industry responding to gas odor calls—averaging 20.3 minutes in 2015
- Completed 11 out of the 12 recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board and work on the remaining one is on track

As part of PG&E's maintenance work, there may also be a controlled and safe release of a small amount of natural gas while the service line is emptied for replacement. Customers may hear a loud, steady noise and notice the smell of gas. While gas odors are likely from this work, PG&E encourages anyone with concerns to call **1-800-743-5000**.

About PG&E

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of [PG&E Corporation](#) (NYSE:PCG), is one of the largest combined natural gas and electric utilities in the United States. Based in San Francisco, with more than 20,000 employees, the company delivers some of the nation's cleanest energy to nearly 16 million people in Northern and Central California. For more information, visit www.pge.com/ and www.pge.com/en/about/newsroom/index.page.

