

# Excess Flow Valve Notification

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Clarke-Mobile Counties Gas District (CMC Gas) carefully maintains a network of natural gas mains and service pipelines that deliver safe and reliable natural gas to the communities we serve. While the pipelines serving your community are already safe, a new federal regulation concerning natural gas pipeline safety requires CMC Gas to notify its customers of their right to request the installation of an Excess Flow Valve (EFV) on their existing natural gas service line.

An EFV is a mechanical safety device installed inside a gas service line between the natural gas main and the gas meter. EFVs minimize or stop the flow of natural gas in the event of a service line break. Although an EFV is not required for the normal, safe operation of your gas service line, an EFV could help mitigate the consequences of a service line break by restricting or stopping the gas flow.

## Potential Safety Benefits of an EFV

EFVs are mechanical shut-off devices that can be installed in the gas pipe running to the gas meter at your property (the “service line”). EFVs significantly reduce or completely shut off the flow of natural gas if a natural gas service line becomes damaged. Restricting the gas flow after a gas service line is damaged may significantly decrease the risk of property damage and/or injury.

## What an EFV Cannot Do

Installation of an EFV will not protect against leaks on customer appliances or house piping. EFVs also do not protect against leaks on the gas meter or small/slow leaks on the service line. EFVs are not designed to close if a leak occurs beyond the gas meter (on house piping or appliances).

## Installation Costs

The cost of retrofitting an existing service line to install an EFV will be at the expense of the customer. The average installation cost is typically \$900 to \$1,500, but the actual cost will depend on the difficulty of installation.

## Installation

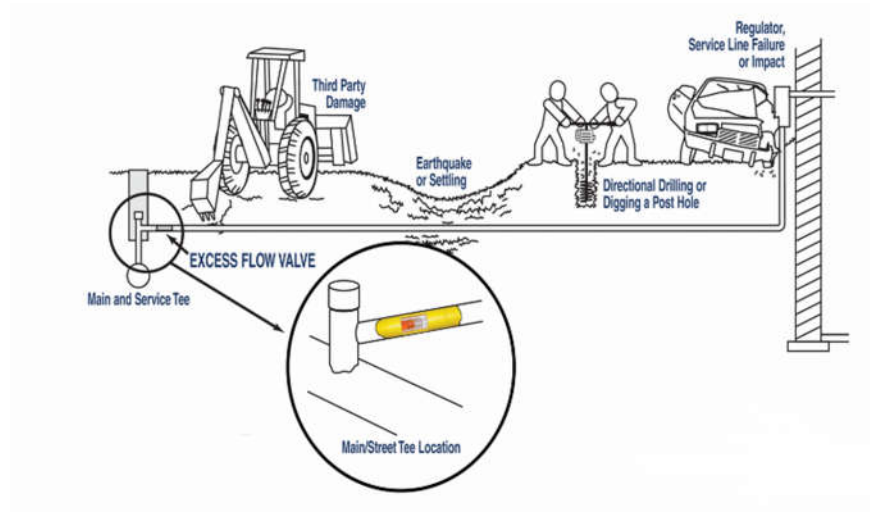
The installation of an EFV will be scheduled at a mutually agreeable date pending the approval of any required permits and weather conditions. Due to operating characteristics and limitations, in some instances EFVs cannot be installed. Each situation will be evaluated individually. EFVs may not be installed on your service lines if:

- The capacity of the meter on the service line exceeds 1,000 cubic feet per hour
- The service line does not operate at a pressure of 10 psig or greater throughout the year;
- The operator has prior experience with contaminants in the gas stream that could interfere with the EFV’s operation or cause loss of service to a customer;
- The EFV could interfere with necessary operation or maintenance activities;
- An EFV meeting the performance standards in §192.381 is not commercially available to the operator

## Maintenance Costs

Industry experience is that EFV's rarely malfunction. If it becomes necessary to replace the EFV on your natural gas service line, due to a malfunction, CMC Gas will be responsible for the cost. If the customer changes their natural gas volume requirements a new EFV could be required. If so, the customer would be responsible for the cost of this upgrade.

## Diagram of Typical EFV Installation



## Additional Information

For more information regarding EFVs, go to [www.cmcgas.com/natural-gas-safety](http://www.cmcgas.com/natural-gas-safety) and click on the "Excess Flow Valves" tab.

## Safety Information

Always call 811 to have gas lines and other buried utilities marked before allowing anyone to dig in your yard.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***What is an Excess Flow Valve?***

An Excess Flow Valve (EFV) is a mechanical device installed inside a natural gas distribution service line between the street and residential meter that enhances the safety of your natural gas service. If there is a significant increase in the flow of natural gas (e.g., due to a damaged line), the EFV will "trip" or close to minimize the flow of gas through the service line. Once the repair is made and the correct pressure is restored, the EFV automatically resets itself.

Note that an EFV **cannot protect** against certain leaks on the service line or meter such as those caused by corrosion or loose fittings. It also **cannot protect** against leaks beyond the natural gas meter, for example, natural gas piping inside the premises and also at or near appliances.

***How do Excess Flow Valves work?***

A spring pushes a valve open against the oncoming gas flow. Sensing a change in pressure, the spring forces the valve closed, minimizing the flow of gas. EFVs are designed so that when you turn on your gas appliances, the flow isn't enough to push the valve shut, however if the line is damaged there is enough flow to push the valve shut. After the EFV trips, the gas pressure continues pushing on the valve, keeping the valve closed until the correct pressure is restored by the CMC. When lines are repaired and service is restored, the valve automatically resets itself.

***If I want one installed, what should I do?***

If you'd like to have an EFV installed on the natural gas service line at your premises, please call your local CMC Gas office and speak with a customer service representative who can assist you.

**Jackson Office**

2003 College Avenue  
Jackson, AL 36545  
Phone: 251-246-2428

**Grove Hill Office**

119 Main Street  
Grove Hill, AL 36451  
Phone: 251-275-8138

**Thomasville Office**

215 Alabama Ave West  
Thomasville, AL 36784  
Phone: 334-636-4533

**Orange Beach Office**

24831 Canal Road  
Orange Beach, AL 36561  
Phone: 251-974-5432

***Will I lose natural gas service during installation?***

Yes. During installation, we will temporarily interrupt your natural gas service.

***Does installation require digging in my yard?***

Yes. During installation, we will excavate your service line. Next, we will install the valve and backfill the excavation. The last step is to restore natural gas service to your home, which would include relighting pilots.

***Do I need to be home during installation? How long will it take?***

Yes. CMC Gas requires a person over the age of 18 to be present any time natural gas service is restored. The installation process onsite typically takes several hours.

***How long will the valve last? If the Excess Flow Valve has to be replaced or repaired, who is responsible for that cost?***

EFVs are designed to last the lifetime of our natural gas distribution system, and industry experience is that EFV's rarely malfunction. If it becomes necessary to replace the EFV on your natural gas service line, due to a malfunction, CMC Gas will be responsible for the cost. If the customer changes their natural

gas volume requirements a new EFV could be required. If so, the customer would be responsible for the cost of this upgrade.

***If I have a natural gas leak inside my home, will an Excess Flow Valve stop or reduce the flow of natural gas?***

No. EFVs do not protect against leaks beyond the meter assembly (house piping).

***What should I do if I smell gas inside my home?***

If you smell natural gas inside your home, leave immediately, and from a safe location call CMC Gas at 251-246-2428 or 800-449-3338, and 911.