

Hazard: Explosions

Identity of Hazard(s): This includes the threat from the blast of an explosion, from debris generated by the blast, and from the partial or total collapse. The most frequent causes of explosions are mains gas, stored gas, water vapor and fire.¹

Primary Health Outcome(s): Bruising, fracture, head, brain and spinal injury¹

Health Alert! There are around 10 deaths per year in dwellings as a result of explosions, and over 500 non-fatal accidents where the victim was struck by debris from an explosion.¹

Gain Control: Actions You Can Take²

- Natural gas is highly combustible, and has no natural smell; the smell we associate with it is artificially added during production in order to warn us about the presence of the explosive gas. If a leak goes unnoticed and uncorrected, a serious explosion may occur. Some of the most common residential gas explosions are due to: boiler and furnace explosions; appliance explosions; wiring explosions
 - Improperly maintained gas lines can be extremely dangerous. All it takes is a small spark – a lit cigarette, a candle, even a cell phone – to cause a deadly explosion.
 - Gas appliances and hot water systems should be properly installed and satisfy regulations
 - There should be properly installed gas regulators and gauges, meters and pipework.
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Local Resources for Detroit Residents:

- The Detroit Department of Buildings and Safety Engineering (BSEED): (313) 628-2451
 - Property Maintenance Division can handle rental property issues with escaping gas into the air.
- Detroit Planning and Development Department (CDBG Home Repair Program): (313) 224-3461
 - Must be homeowner with homeowners insurance and be current on property taxes
- Young Detroit Builders (for low cost carpentry): (313) 964-2763
- If Renting, call Detroit Buildings, Safety Engineering and Environmental Department (BSEED): (313) 628-2451

¹ http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=operating_guidance_hhrs_v1.pdf

² <http://www.explosionvictimresourcecenter.org/explosions/residential-gas/>