

Reference: Natural Gas Service Line Safety Device Availability Customer Notification

Bessemer City Natural Gas Customer:

Based on the requirements of a new regulation issued by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PMHSA), the City of Bessemer is providing notification to all of its customers about the availability of the retrofit installation of an excess flow valve (EFV) on your natural gas service line. The following information is provided to help you decide if the installation of this safety device on your natural gas service line is desired.

What is an EFV?

An EFV is a mechanical safety device that is installed on a natural gas distribution service line between the street and residential meter. If there is a significant increase in the flow of gas (e.g., due to a damaged line), the EFV will “trip” or close to stop or minimize the flow of gas through the line thus, decreasing the amount of escaping into the atmosphere. During normal use, the valve is kept pushed open against oncoming gas flow by a spring. EFV’s are designed so that general usage, such as turning on appliances, will not shut the valve. However, during a significant increase in the flow of gas (e.g., due to a damaged line), the spring cannot overcome the force of gas, and the valve will closed and stay closed until the correct pressure is restored. When the correct pressure is restored (e.g., following repair of the damage), the EFV automatically resets itself.

How much does the installation of the EFV cost?

The cost of the EFV and the installation is \$450.00. This cost will include the materials (valve) and installation of the valve by qualified City of Bessemer City Gas Department employees. The installation of the EFV will require excavation of your natural gas service line in or near the street, disconnecting of your service line to install the valve and restoration of the excavation and surrounding area. Following the installation of the EFV, the City of Bessemer City will accept all responsibility for maintaining, repairing, and replacing the EFV as required.

How do I request the installation of the EFV?

If you would like to have an EFV installed on your natural gas service line, visit City Hall and complete an application or visit the Finance and Customer Service page on the City’s website to download a copy of the application. All applications and fees must be submitted at City Hall.

Once the application is complete and fee is paid, the installation will be scheduled by Finance and Customer Service Representative.

Additional questions about the EFV’s?

If you have additional questions concerning the EFV’s, please contact Finance and Customer Service at 704-629-5542 or the Gas Department at 704-833-0371.

Sincerely,

Jamie Ramsey
Assistant City Manager