



Natural Gas Well Site Voluntary Fire Department Compliance Checklist

Requirements from Gas Well Drilling Ordinance and Fire Code pertinent to natural gas well sites:
1. Address prescribed by Fort Worth Fire Department shall be posted at entry via minimum 6 inch high letters at entrance to property. (Contact 817-392-6840 with addressing questions.) (Fire Code Appendix M)
2. Access road provided is maintained to allow for Fire Department response to an incident on site. Road shall be minimum of 10 ft. wide per GWDO adopted 1/1/02, or 15 ft. wide for any site permitted after GWDO adopted 6/21/06. (Fire Code Section 503)
3. Gas well site shall have minimum 6 ft. noncombustible fence with gate. Gate shall be provided with Knox lock or Knox Box with key. Fences shall not be required on drill sites during initial drilling, completion or re-working operations as long as 24-hour on-site supervision is provided. A secured entrance gate on the access road having Knox access shall be required and all gates are to be kept locked when the operator or operator's employees are not on the premises. (GWDO Div. VII, Sec. 15-43, A. and Fire Code Section 506 and 2703.9.2)
4. Signage: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign at site entry gate indicating:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Well name and number- Name of Operator- "911" for emergencies- Telephone number of 2 persons responsible for well in case of emergency• No Smoking sign as follows: "DANGER NO SMOKING OR OPEN FLAME ALLOWED IN THIS AREA." "PELIGRO NO FUMAR O INICIAR LLAMA EN ESTA AREA." Minimum 4 inch high red letters on white background or vice versa at entrance to gas well pad site, at tank batteries, and other areas as needed.• NFPA 704 sign provided at entry gate to gas well pad site (F4 rating for natural gas). Minimum 6 inch letter height. Such sign is not required at property gates, just at the entry gate to the gas well pad site itself.• Fixed stationary tanks having hazardous materials contents of any kind identified in the Fire Code shall be provided with NFPA 704 signage and contents label on at least 2 sides. Minimum 6 inch letter height. The saltwater tanks, for example, shall indicate the potential for natural gas in the tanks with an F4 rating. Note that portable containers, such as drums and totes, having hazardous materials contents are not required to have an NFPA 704 sign, but rather are required to be labeled per DOT requirements. (GWDO Div. VII, Sec. 15-42, A.-30. and Fire Code Section 2703, 3406.3.1.1, 3406.3.7)
5. Each well shall be equipped with an automated valve that closes the well in the event of an abnormal change in operating pressure. All well heads shall contain an <u>appropriately labeled</u> emergency shut off valve to the well distribution line. (GWDO Div. VII, Sec. 15-42, A.-15. and 35. and Fire Code Section 3406.3.4)
6. Lightning protection system provided for tank batteries. (GWDO Div. VII, Sec. 15-42, A.-33.)
7. All tank batteries shall be API placarded tanks with secondary containment provided. (GWDO Div. VII, Sec. 15-42, A.-32)
8. No high grass, weeds, or combustibles within 100 ft. radius of producing natural gas wells or tanks associated with such wells. (GWDO Div. VII, Sec. 15-42, A.-21.. and Fire Code Section 3406.3.2)
9. Storage of Equipment. On-site storage is prohibited. No equipment shall be stored on the drilling or production operation site, unless it is necessary to the everyday operation of the well. Lumber, pipes, tubing and casing shall not be left on the operation site except when drilling or well servicing operations are being conducted on the site.

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No vehicle or item of machinery shall be parked or stored on any street, right-of-way or in any driveway, alley or upon any site which constitutes a fire hazard or an obstruction to or interference with fighting or controlling fires except that equipment which is necessary for drilling or production operations on the site. The Fire Department shall be the entity that determines whether an equipment on the site shall constitute a fire hazard.

(GWDO Div. VII, Sec. 15-42, A.-31.)

10. Additional items required while site is being drilled or re-worked:

- If diesel tank is present at drilling rig, require Flammable and Combustible Liquids Operational Permit. Requirements for such tank permit include:
 - Listed and labeled equipment (hoses, tank, etc.).
 - Secondary containment required.
 - Normal and emergency relief venting required.
 - Fusible link automatic closing valve required for gravity feed from tank. Manually operable valve also required.
 - Fill opening requires locking closure device.
 - NFPA 704 diamond and contents label required for tank (minimum 6 inch letter height). No Smoking/No Open Flame signage also required.
 - Maximum tank size is 10,000 gallons.
 - Tank located minimum 50 ft. from any building or combustible storage.
 - Portable fire extinguisher of minimum 20-B:C required within 75 ft. of tank.(Fire Code Section 3406.2)
- Operator must keep watchman on site during drilling or re-working operations when workmen are not on site.
(GWDO Div. VII, Sec. 15-42, A.-39.)

The purpose of this checklist is to provide a simple reference for compliance with Fire Department related issues at a natural gas well site. Such guide in no way relieves the operator/owner of the gas well site from compliance with all applicable laws, rules, and ordinances.

2013 Updates and Interpretations:

1. Generally, transport vehicles staging materials and supplies do not constitute an obstruction of fire access roads to well sites provided that the driver remains in the vehicle and it is capable of being moved in the event of an emergency.
2. Chapter 33 of the International Fire Code specifically exempts permit requirements for industrial power loads used for perforation of well casings.
3. Fire Department approval of Lift Compressor installations is not required unless requested by the GWD or Operator (GWDO Div. VII, Sec. 15-42, D, 2, i.).

Please feel free to contact the Fort Worth Fire Department Bureau of Fire Prevention with any questions at 817-392-6840.

Landon Stallings
Fire Marshal
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