

Learn about

# EXCESS FLOW VALVES

## WHAT'S AN EFV?

An Excess Flow Valve, or EFV, is a device that automatically closes and restricts the flow of natural gas if an underground pipe is broken, completely cut, or torn apart. Such damage usually results from some type of excavation or digging. An EFV may also restrict the flow if the gas meter is damaged. This damage usually results from a vehicle impact or, on rare occasions, from a large snow load.

## WHERE IS AN EFV INSTALLED?

The EFV is installed on the service pipeline that runs underground between the gas main (usually located in or near the street, alley or easement) and the Southwest Gas meter on the customer's property.

## WHAT DOES AN EFV DO?

Because the EFV restricts the flow of gas, it reduces the potential for fire-related property damage, personal injury, and death. Installation of an EFV will not protect against customer appliance malfunction or customer houseline gas leaks, small punctures in the underground pipe, or gas meter leaks. An EFV may not protect against damage to pipelines from earthquakes or flooding. It's also important to understand that an EFV doesn't shut off the flow of gas completely. Some leakage may still occur and result in a hazardous condition. Anyone performing an excavation is responsible for immediately contacting Southwest Gas to report any damage to gas facilities.

## DOES MY SERVICE HAVE AN EFV?

Southwest Gas has installed EFVs on most new or replaced service lines built after June 2008. If you'd like a cost estimate to have an EFV installed at your residence, or if you'd like to find out if you already have an EFV, please call the Energy Specialists at 1-800-654-2765 for information. Since the EFV will be installed on the Southwest Gas pipe, only Southwest Gas or its approved contractors may perform the installation.



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