

Gas Explosion Rips Through House
Like A Bomb Went Off
Gas Explosion Levels Home
Natural Gas Caused
Another Gas Explosion
Lives, Home Lost
A FIREBALL
2 Killed In Natural Gas Explosion
Firefighters Hurt In Gas Explosion
HOME DESTROYED
Pipeline Blast Killed 12
Family Killed By Gas
Blew Roof Off
Injured As Many As 12 People

**NATURAL
GAS
... IT'S
MAKING
HEADLINES**

We'd like to leak some disturbing information about natural gas.

Natural gas has been heralded by some people, especially those who work for the natural gas utilities, as a cheap, clean home-heating alternative, but some residents of Allentown have a different story to tell. **Since a February 2011 gas explosion devastated this Pennsylvania community, ending five lives and destroying eight homes**, UGI Utilities Inc. — owner of the pipe that cracked, causing the explosion — has agreed to pay a fine of \$500,000.¹ But how does one put a price on the lives of five human beings?

All across the country — from San Bruno, CA to Philadelphia, PA — the tragic saga continues, as **gas explosions rock communities to their core**. Meanwhile, back in Pennsylvania, UGI is at it again, getting hit with a **record-breaking \$1 million fine** for mishandling a potentially explosive gas leak in the spring of 2012.² Yet somehow, utilities still expect consumers to trust them and commit to a costly and inconvenient conversion to natural gas heating.

You can't ignore that:

- Pipeline **leaks can be caused by construction or other accidents**, even severe weather.
- Utilities **leave millions in the dark during winter storm seasons, with power outages sometimes lasting weeks**.
- Because gas companies are moving to export large quantities to Europe and Japan, **gas prices in the U.S. could rise 54% by 2018**.³
- Utilities reported losing up to 11.9% of the natural gas they distribute, and many are charging customers for that loss under the “supply charge” on their bill. In total, Pennsylvania’s natural gas **customers pay \$131 million a year for gas they never use**.⁴
- Because warm winters can be bad for *their* business, some utilities companies also subject customers to an extra **“weather normalization adjustment” charge**, which is “used to reflect what a customer’s usage would have been if weather had been normal during the billing period.”⁵ **In other words, even when natural gas customers use less, they pay more.**
- UGI charges its customers a **“Customer Charge,” a “Commodity Charge” and a “Delivery Charge,”** yet nowhere on their *Understanding Your UGI Natural Gas Bill* webpage do they explain or even mention these charges.⁶

The gas utilities seem to think that Pennsylvanians are ripe for the taking. Prove them wrong. **To learn more facts about the hidden costs** and other risks of natural gas, **visit www.AmericanEnergyCoalition.com**. You deserve to know the truth about natural gas.



Aftermath of gas pipeline explosion

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¹ http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/allentown/index.ssf/2013/02/ugi_agrees_to_pay_500000_fine.html

² <http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/business/1m-fine-levied-on-ugi-approved-1.1559243>

³ <http://www.industryweek.com/global-economy/natural-gas-exports-could-raise-prices-54-2018>

⁴ <http://triblive.com/news/2124959-74/gas-lost-percent-company-puc-companies-losses-state-customers-fuel>

⁵ <https://www.columbiagaspa.com/billing-payment-options/rate-adjustment-information/rate-adjustment-faq>

⁶ http://www.ugi.com/portal/page/portal/UGI/Residential_Gas/Resources_Understanding_Bill