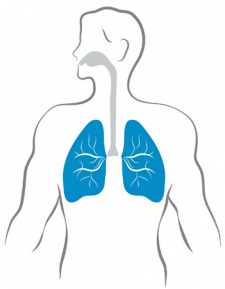




Methane and Your Health

Methane gas was found outside of the Kentwood Landfill. Methane is odorless, colorless, and tasteless. It is common in landfills, marshes, septic systems and sewers. Methane can become flammable or explosive in air at levels of five to 15 percent. While it evaporates quickly, methane gas can be trapped in closed-in areas. Methane gas is not suspected of causing cancer and there are no long-term health effects associated with exposure.



Breathing

Methane gas displaces oxygen when it gets into homes through sewer traps or foundation cracks; symptoms can range from feeling tired and having a headache to nausea or loss of consciousness. In very rare cases, it can displace oxygen completely, which can cause immediate death.



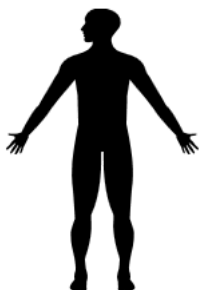
Drinking/Eating

Methane gas evaporates so quickly that it is rarely detected in food. Homes west of the Kentwood Landfill are connected to city water/sewer lines; city drinking water is not at risk for methane contamination.



Touching

Methane gas does not irritate skin. It is not absorbed into fabrics, textiles, plastic, aluminum, glass, tin, drywall or housing materials.



Overall Health

Methane gas leaves the body quickly. There are tests that measure methane as it is exhaled, as well as urine, blood, and other tissue testing. There is no method to determine the level of exposure or health effects of methane exposure. There are no known reproductive or developmental effects caused by exposure to methane gas.