

Excess Flow Valve



Natural Gas Division

What is an excess flow valve?

As part of the ongoing commitment towards safety, the City of Ellensburg is offering existing natural gas customers the option to install an excess flow valve on their existing service line. An excess flow valve (EFV) is an underground safety device designed to limit the flow of natural gas to a very small amount if there is a sudden break in a service line. An EFV meeting the performance standards prescribed under Title 49 CFR, Part 192.381 will be installed as part of any new service or alteration work as long as it meets specific criteria.

How does an excess flow valve work?

The City's Gas Division will install the EFV near the connection to the main. The EFV should activate when the downstream gas flow increases sharply such as when a gas service line breaks. The EFV is designed to limit the flow of gas to a very small amount which significantly reduces the risk of natural gas fire, explosion, personal injury and/or property damage.

Are there limitations to the protection an EFV can provide?

Yes. The EFV is not designed to close due to slow leaks in your service line, leaks or breaks in the gas main in the street, or leaks in your house piping. The EFV will only shut off the flow of gas due to a break in your service line between the location the EFV was installed and your meter set. An EFV may not protect against any damage to a service line from flooding or earthquakes.

Will all of the City Gas Division's customers have an EFV installed on their service line?

The City began installing EFVs in 2008 on all new and replaced residential service lines and has recently expanded this practice to include small multi-family and commercial service lines that meet specific criteria. Beginning April 14, 2017, the City is now offering existing natural gas customers without EFV's the option to have one installed at the customer's expense, on their service line by the City, at a mutually agreed upon date.

EFVs cannot be installed on some service lines due to high gas flow (1,000 SCFH or more), low pressure (less than 10 psig) or other factors (such as interfering with necessary operation and maintenance activities or an EFV meeting the performance standards in Title 49 CFR, Part 192.381 is not commercially available to the City). If you request an EFV but your service line cannot accommodate an EFV, we will let you know.

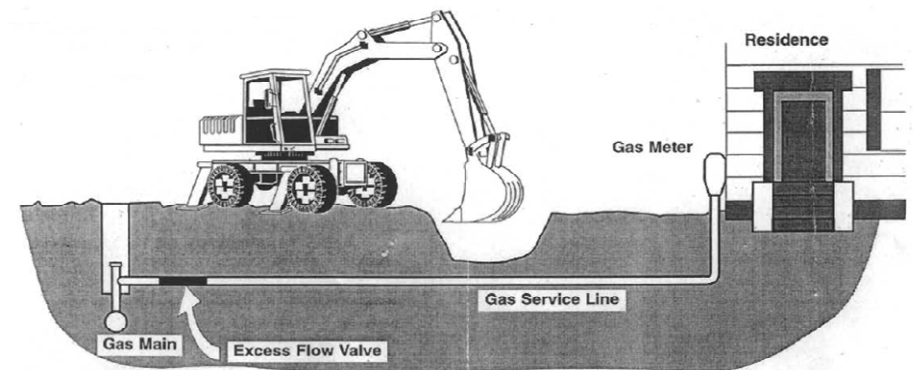
What will it cost to install and maintain the EFV?

If you are having a new service line installed or a service line replaced, the installation cost is included in the cost for the service. If you request an EFV be installed on your existing service line, you will be given an estimate for the cost and billed for the actual cost to install the EFV. Under normal circumstances there should be no required maintenance on an EFV. If it becomes necessary to replace the EFV on your service line, you will be billed for the cost of replacing the EFV. EFV replacement may be necessary if you add large gas loads that exceed the capacity of the EFV. The average installation or replacement cost for an EFV varies from \$500-\$1000, but the actual cost will depend on the difficulty of installation or replacement.

Are there other options that provide protection against service line breaks?

EFVs are designed to protect against breaks caused by excavation. Your best protection against service line breaks is to call your local Underground Utilities Locating Service Center two business days prior to digging to obtain locations of all underground utilities free of charge. The toll free number for locate requests is 1-800-424-5555 or 811

Interested natural gas customers are encouraged to contact the City of Ellensburg Gas Division at (509)962-7124 or visit the City's website at: www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us



Typical EFV Installation