

WHAT HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT "NATURAL" GAS

What is "natural" gas?

Despite the name, "natural" gas is primarily composed of **methane**, a **fossil fuel**. Similar to coal and oil, it **fills the air with harmful gases and pollutants** when it burns.

What is fracking?

To access gas deposits, fossil fuel companies in BC use hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking." This **polluting, water-intensive process** involves drilling deep into rock, then horizontally for several kilometres. High-pressure injections of water, sand, and chemicals break the rock and release trapped methane.

How "Natural" Gas Harms Health

Contrary to what fossil fuel companies say in their advertisements, methane gas is **dirty** and has **no safe role to play** in society's transition to net zero.

Drives Climate Change

Trapping 84x more heat than carbon dioxide, methane emissions are responsible for one-third of global warming. This makes them a major factor in increasing extreme events like wildfires, heatwaves, droughts, and flooding.

Depletes Water Supplies

Due to extreme droughts, our water supplies are increasingly threatened. Fracking operations use and permanently contaminate massive amounts of clean water with toxic chemicals.

Makes Homes Unhealthy

Even when off, gas appliances like stoves generate pollution and increase the risk of respiratory diseases, especially for children.



Poisons Communities

Birth defects, impaired fetal growth, childhood leukemia, heart disease, and all-cause mortality are higher for those who live near fracking wells. Indigenous communities are disproportionately harmed by fracking operations.

Pollutes Our Air

Gas production, including releasing, burning, transporting, and treating byproducts, results in harmful airborne chemicals, contributing to higher risk of asthma, COPD, and cancers.

Threatens Safety

By impacting ground stability, fracking and/or wastewater disposal make dangerous and damaging earthquakes more likely.

What Can Be Done?

As health care professionals, we are calling on the government to implement the following in order to protect the well-being of our communities and planet. Use the QR code to learn more and take action.

Introduce a **comprehensive fossil fuel advertising ban.**

Stop all new fracking development.

Prohibit gas hookups for all new buildings.

End all fossil fuel subsidies including direct spending, tax breaks, transfer of risk, and public finance.

Incentivize homeowners' **replacement of gas appliances** with zero-emission alternatives.

Support a just transition to a clean economy including offering retraining and good, zero-emissions jobs.



Learn More
Take Action

