

EXCESS FLOW VALVES

Since 2003, Charlottesville Gas has been installing Excess Flow Valves (EFVs) on new gas service lines which met federally mandated guidelines. As of December 2016, approximately 3,841 EFVs have been installed on eligible gas service lines. Beginning April 2017, a new Federal rule allows residential and small commercial customers with connection loads of 1,000 standard cubic feet per hour or less to request the installation of an EFV. It is the customer's responsibility to request and pay for the EFV, which will be installed on a mutually agreed upon date. Please read the FAQ below to learn more about EFVs and the installation process.

Q: What is an EFV?

A: EFVs are mechanical shut-off devices that can be installed in the gas pipe running to the gas meter at your property. An EFV is designed to reduce the flow of natural gas automatically if the service line breaks. This significantly reduces the risk of natural gas fire, explosion, personal injury and/or property damage. EFVs are not designed to close if a leak occurs beyond the gas meter (ex on house piping or appliances) and may not close if the leak is small.

Q: How do I request an EFV installation?

A: You can contact our gas marketing office (434-970-3812) about having an EFV installed in the gas line on your property. EFVs will be installed on a mutually agreeable date assuming the line is eligible. Please be aware that EFVs cannot be installed on some service lines due to high gas flow, low pressure or other factors. We will inform you if your service line cannot accommodate an EFV.

Q: Does it cost anything to have an EFV installed?

A: Yes. Customers will be billed for the cost of installing the EFV. The anticipated installation cost is approximately \$1,000, but the actual cost will vary depending on the difficulty of the installation. The final price will be determined on an individual basis by the amount of work involved and location of the EFV.

Q: Are there any additional charges I should know about?

A: Yes. You will also be billed approximately \$1,000 for the cost of replacing an EFV if it becomes overloaded due to adding additional non-qualifying appliances. If the device fails for any reason or you are adding a qualifying appliance (range, water heater, dryer, furnace), Charlottesville Gas will cover the replacement cost.

Q: Where can I learn more about EFVs?

A: To learn more about EFVs and the new regulation, please visit the Pipe-line and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's website at www.tinyurl.com/PHMSA-EFV.

