

## Dealing with a gas leak

You should check your dispensing systems every day for faults by checking that all nuts and seals are tight and listen for hissing sounds. If you suspect that a leak has occurred, you must put into operation emergency gas procedures.

### **Small gas leaks**

In this case, take the following steps: first...

- Ventilate the cellar by opening all doors and cellar flaps. Prevent anyone from entering the cellar.

*then enter the cellar...*

- Tell someone that you are about to go into the cellar, why, and how long you think you will be there.
- Turn off the carbon dioxide or mixed gas cylinder valve.
- Spray the cellar floor with water (carbon dioxide is very soluble in water).
- When you return from the cellar, tell the person you informed earlier.
- Let someone know whether it is now safe to enter.

If at any time you feel the effects of increased carbon dioxide concentration (feeling short of breath, breathing faster), leave the cellar immediately and call for assistance.

### **Major gas leak**

A major gas leak can be caused by plant failure, or a burst disc rupturing.

A bursting disc is a quick pressure release system that ruptures if the pressure in the cylinder rises above a certain limit. It is designed to release the contents so that the cylinder itself doesn't burst. If a bursting disc ruptures, there will be a sudden loud noise and a plume of white vapour as the gas is released. Also, the cylinder may fall over.

If there is a major gas leak, take the following steps:

First...

- If you can do it without entering the cellar, turn off the gas supply.

Then...

- Inform all staff and evacuate the affected area.
- Call for assistance.
- Do not let anyone go into the cellar - under any circumstances - until you are sure it is safe to do so.
- Open all outside doors and windows to ventilate the area.
- Close all doors to passages leading to any place where carbon dioxide could accumulate.
- Leave the cellar refrigeration switched on - the fans will help to disperse the gas.
- If a bursting disc has ruptured, the cylinder surface temperature will be below freezing - do not touch a frosted cylinder without wearing protective gloves.

In the event of a gas leak please contact Wales & West Cellar Gas for assistance on 01443 222200.