

A smiling male worker wearing a white hard hat and a high-visibility yellow safety jacket is operating machinery. In the background, there are large industrial components and a pressure gauge with a scale from 0 to 250. The scene is set outdoors at an industrial facility.

**RWE**

# Natural Gas Storage Xanten RWE Neighbour- hood information

About safety

**Underground storage is a safe and eco-friendly method of storing natural gas well proven and time-tested Europe-wide.**



## **For more than 30 years**

the storage Xanten has been located in a particularly attractive scenery on the Lower Rhine. Apart from safety aspects we emphasize compatibility to the landscape and environmental issues when we plan, construct and operate the plant.




The natural gas storage Xanten is subject to the Statutory Order on Hazardous Incidents (Störfall-Verordnung). The required information and documentation are on hand at the supervisory authority, namely the Mining Authority Arnsberg. This includes also the notification according to § 7 as well as the safety report according to § 9, section 1 of StörfallV.

In accordance with §§ 8a and 11 of the Störfall-Verordnung and the provision of public information we publish following below some important facts for your knowledge.

Basically, underground storages serve to cover peak load situations for natural gas or to balance the difference in summer/winter demand. For this gas is withdrawn from the gas grid and pressed into underground caverns with the help of compressors. The gas stays there until withdrawal. During withdrawal the natural gas is adjusted to grid pressure. In the course of procedures, the gas is filtered and cooled during injection. During withdrawal it is filtered and preheated, pressure-adjusted and dried.

The following chart lists up the properties of natural gas.

hazard symbol	hazardous substance	main hazardous properties
 Danger	natural gas	gases or vapours can form explosive mixtures when in contact with air

Despite extensive safety measures and technical precautionary steps there may occur temporary operational conditions during operation of an underground storage which could cause odour or noise for example. Such an operational condition will be regarded as hazardous incident only in case of serious hazard to health and life of persons or in case of lasting damage to the environment or damage to cultural assets and material goods.

A case of hazardous incident would be, for example, the uncontrolled dispersal of an inflammable natural gas cloud. The main danger is the thermal radiation which occurs if the cloud sparks off. This can result in burns. In addition, a strong noise generation occurs.

In accordance to the specified plan in case of a hazardous incident the local control room Wesel deploys the local fire brigade and other external rescue services. On top of that the respective authorities are called in (Mining Authority Arnsberg in Dortmund, county and local administration). The affected neighbourhood is alerted and informed about the dangerous situation by way of loudspeaker announcements and/or via the radio. The rescue teams will call on the affected people in person in individual cases.

RWE Gas Storage West GmbH has taken all necessary precautionary measures for the natural gas storage to prevent a hazardous incident. They are recorded in writing and have been verified by the authorities in charge. At all vital spots gas detectors, combustion detectors and firefighting systems are firmly installed. They are routinely checked by the supervision staff of the storage plant.



The local fire brigades in the vicinity of the natural gas storage have been familiarized with the plant so that in case of fire they can act immediately. To limit the effects of hazardous incidents outside of the plant the authority in charge has worked out external alert and hazard control plans to be able to react appropriately in case of emergency.

**In case of a hazardous incident please follow the directives of the relief units. Basic rules of conduct are also listed in this brochure.**



In case of queries relating to the Störfall-Verordnung please turn to our contact partner in storage operation. (Do not block this number in case of emergency!)



## Your contact person

Dipl.-Ing. Matthias Steinweller  
Head of Operations natural gas storage Xanten  
T 02801 7755-3501

## Storage emergency number

T 0800 5283763

## Fire brigade

Emergency call 112

## Police

Emergency call 110

The date of the last on-site inspection in accordance to § 17 section 2 Störfall-Verordnung is stored on the home page of RWE Gas Storage West GmbH. The authority in charge of on-site inspection and surveillance plan is the District Council Arnsberg, Dortmund, as Mining Authority.

## Code of Conduct

### Outdoors: run at right angle to the wind

Leaking gas and fumes go with the wind. Get away from the danger spot as fast as possible at right angle to the wind. Do not stay at the spot of danger.

### Rescue of injured persons

Leave the rescue of injured persons to the rescue teams. If you do not have adequate equipment you expose yourself to mortal danger. Do not rescue by yourself, call the rescue team (emergency call 112).

### Staying in a house

Closed buildings offer a better protection than a stay outdoors. Call children into the house right away. Natural gas is lighter than air. For that reason, rooms on the ground floor are generally safer. Choose a room without heating device or open fire place, because these rooms have as a rule outdoor air intake.

### Close windows and doors tightly

Shut down air condition and ventilation so that as little outside air as possible can enter.

### Take note of loudspeaker announcements

The fire brigade, the police and teams put in charge by them inform about the necessary rules of conduct by loudspeaker announcements. Follow their instructions without fail.

### Switch on the radio

Reports about a case of damage, rules of conduct and all-clear are announced via the regional radio stations, if deemed necessary.

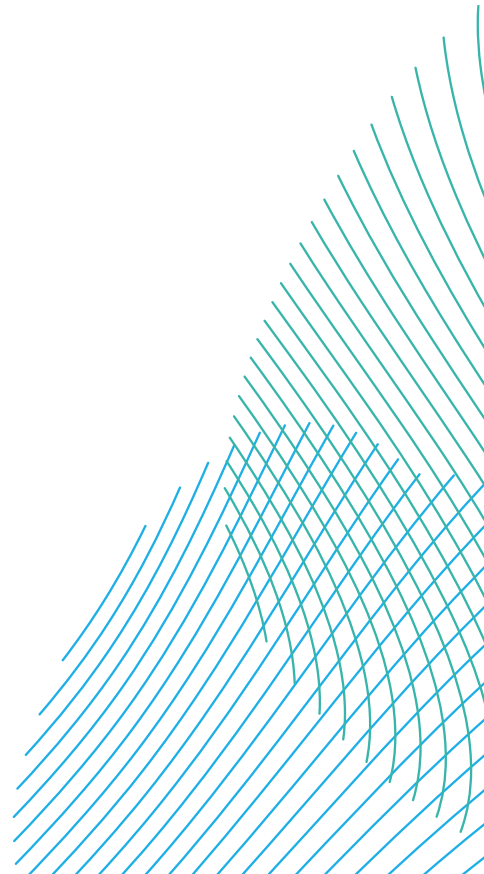
### Do not block the phone

In order to reach you call only in emergency cases. The fire brigade, the police and other departments need all available phone lines to initiate help and rescue steps.

## One last statement:

In line with our safety philosophy and obligations we have taken all suitable precautions to avoid a hazardous incident. However, we are also aware that there is no absolute safety and that there is a rest risk at all times. It is for such a case that provisions have been made, in cooperation with emergency and rescue services, to avert possible damage from the citizens near our plant, from our staff and from the environment.

**July 2020**



**RWE Gas Storage West GmbH**

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