



Gas Drilling

Resources for Arlington Residents

[What it is](#) | [Impacts](#) | [What you can do about it](#)

WHAT IT IS

What is fracking / gas drilling?

- **Hydraulic Fracturing** or “Fracking” is a destructive form of unconventional drilling used to access difficult to reach oil & gas reserves in the bedrock. Companies inject pressurized water, sand, and an undisclosed assortment of very toxic chemicals into the bedrock and use explosives, fracturing the ground to bring methane gas to the surface. → [Visual explanation](#)
- Fracking requires dangerous and polluting infrastructure, including pipelines and compressor stations. → [Dangers of compressor stations](#)

Where is it happening?

- There are about 52 active drill sites in Arlington with nearly 400 gas wells. Over 30,000 students go to public school and nearly 7,000 young children go to private preschools and daycares within ½ mile of a gas drilling site. → [Track new gas wells here](#)
- In Tarrant County, 1 million people live within ½ mile of a gas well and drilling is expanding → [Use the Oil & Gas Threat Map to see gas wells near your home or school](#)

What does drilling do to a neighborhood? → [See and hear what it's like to live near it](#)

- Intense **noise** and **light pollution**, dangerous **truck traffic**, **noxious odors**, and **toxic emissions** over several months from blasting, drilling, and hauling materials.
- **Property damage:** Homeowners near drill sites suffer property damage, including expensive damage to their foundation.

How does drilling harm the health of children and pregnant women?

- Dangerous chemicals released from fracking worsen air quality, may [shorten life spans](#), and [pose health risks](#) for those exposed: especially children, pregnant women, fetuses, the elderly, and the sick. → [Full breakdown of health impacts](#)
- **Fracking-related chemicals** associated with cancer and reproductive harms such as benzene [have been found in the bodies](#) of residents living near wells.
- **Infants & fetuses:** Gas well drilling is associated with increases in [preterm births](#), low birth weight, and congenital heart disease. → [Learn more](#)
- **Children:** Increased childhood asthma rates and odds of hospitalizations for [asthma](#). The [carcinogens](#) involved in fracking may increase risk of childhood leukemia.

How does drilling harm the health of adults?

- **Residents 65+** living close to wells are at [higher risk from dying earlier](#) than those living in areas without fracking.
- **Respiratory problems**, including increased hospitalizations and [higher rates of asthma](#), COPD, and other respiratory diseases.
- **Cardiovascular problems**, including being linked to [higher heart attack risk](#), higher rates of cardiovascular diseases, and high blood pressure.
- **Brain and [nervous system problems](#)**, including headaches, lightheadedness, and disorientation.
- **Damage to [red blood cells and bone marrow](#)** leading to anemia and immunological problems.
- **[Cancer](#) and premature mortality**, stroke.

Does it accelerate the climate crisis?

- Natural gas production releases methane gas, which is 86 times more potent than carbon dioxide and responsible for 40% of global warming. [Methane leaks](#) from gas infrastructure at all levels, from the wellhead, to pipelines and compressor stations and during transportation. Oil & gas operations [release far more methane than they report](#).

Does drilling make air and water quality worse?

- **Drilling and gas wells are damaging to [air quality in significant ways](#)** by releasing [Benzene](#), formaldehyde, and other volatile organic air pollutants; chemicals that create ground-level [smog \(ozone\)](#); and fine particles from diesel exhaust
- **Drilling worsens water quality:** The [carcinogen benzene](#) and other toxic fracking-related chemicals contaminated drinking water aquifers on the Barnett Shale, with [water quality](#) worsening the closer sources are to drilling.
- **Drilling a single well can waste up to [16 million gallons of water](#)**, and fracking uses up scarce water resources in the drought-prone Permian Basin in [Texas and New Mexico](#).

WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT

- ✓ **Be eyes and ears on pollution:** Report problems to us with gas wells in your neighborhood or near your children's school
 - If you see something, take a picture or video and send it to us.
 - If you smell something, hear something or feel ill, write it down and send it to us.
 - Report issues **by email** to the state environmental agency, the TCEQ, and copy Liveable Arlington: liveablearlington@gmail.com.
→ [Instructions](#)

- ✓ **Sign up for updates** from Liveable Arlington → [Join our email list](#)

- ✓ **Share** actions, gas well updates, or this resource guide with your networks

- ✓ **Invite us to speak** at a group you're a part of (church group, neighbors, other parents at your school, etc) and help them learn about gas drilling → Email: liveablearlington@gmail.com

- ✓ **Email your council member** about your concerns (make sure to copy liveablearlington@gmail.com)

- ✓ **Sign up to volunteer** with Liveable Arlington → [Volunteer Sign Up](#)

- ✓ **Reshare** our social media posts with your network
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LiveableArlington>
 - Instagram: [@liveablearlington](#)
 - Twitter: [@LivablArlington](#)