

# Bob Ackley

# Gas Safety Inc.

*Protecting Our Urban Forest*  
*Identifying Gas Pipeline Leaks Damaging Vegetation*

# 40 years Gas Industry gas leak compliance

Pipeline Surveys

Operator Qualification

Training

# Gas Leaks & Trees

Trained in 1979 to find gas leaks through observing vegetation abnormalities

“Vegetation Survey” was the standard method used to conduct government compliance gas leak surveys prior to Flame Ionization instruments.

[https://www.northeastgas.org/leak\\_recognition.php](https://www.northeastgas.org/leak_recognition.php)

**Northeast Gas Association  
Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture  
Comments of  
Thomas M. Kiley  
President and CEO  
Northeast Gas Association**

**Regarding HO20776  
October 25, 2011**

“As I testified to the Telecom and Utilities' Joint Committee in June, gas utilities have had a mechanism in place to compensate property owners for damage to trees and vegetation if they have been damaged by natural gas. Utilities have always treated their customers with respect and we will continue to do so - directly with our customers and the communities we serve.”

# Gas Leak Indicators

Gas odor

Blowing Dust

Dead or dying vegetation for no apparent reason

Insects

# Washington Street Newton 5.22.2020



# Upland Road Brookline 5.12.2020



# Upland Road Brookline 5.12.2020



Color

020



# Gas Leak Indicators

Are gas pipes in the vicinity?

Gas Odor?

Gas meters?

Pipeline markouts?

Insects













# Tree Wardens

Test all Planting sites for the presence of pipeline gas leakage

Test all tree removals for the presence of pipeline gas leakage

Test any tree that is in decline for pipeline gas leakage

Use Publicly Available Data on Gas Leak Locations:

[Brookline Gas Leak Map](#)

# Combustible Gas Indicator Testing

# Gas leaks detection protocol pertaining to urban trees

Thank You!

Bob Ackley

Gas Safety Inc

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