



# Informant Leak Detection Tips

Instruction 19-9325

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## Important Facts You Should Know When Operating the Informant

- The Informant indicates the presence of gas by detecting *changes* in the gas level. The instrument is not designed to give a numeric measurement of the gas level.
- The method of locating a leak by detecting changes in the gas level allows an operator to quickly locate the leak source without making manual sensitivity adjustments, or being concerned about the background vapor or gas level in the surrounding area.
- If the probe tip is held stationary, and the gas level does not increase, the instrument's automatic-zero circuit will cause the gas-level readings to decrease. After 10 to 15 seconds, the readings return to zero *even though gas may be present*.
- In order for the instrument to indicate the presence of gas, the probe tip must be *moving toward the leak source*.
- Moving the probe tip in a direction that keeps all gas indicators activated is an indication that the instrument is detecting an ever increasing gas level as the probe tip nears the leak source.
- Move the probe tip at a speed that will keep the gas indicators turned on as the probe tip approaches the leak source. Moving the probe tip too fast will cause the user to quickly pass up the leak source.

# Procedure for Locating a Gas Leak

1. Turn ON the Informant by pressing its **POWER** key. Hold the instrument steady and allow it to warm up for at least 10 to 15 seconds before proceeding. This allows the instrument time to zero itself to the surrounding gas level.
2. At this time all gas-level LEDs should be off or at their lowest level. Also, the probe tip should be blinking and the audible indicator ticking at approximately once-per-second.
3. Begin leak testing by slowly moving the probe tip along the gas lines and around fittings. When the instrument first detects an increased gas level, the gas-level LEDs begin to glow along with the probe tip blinking and the audible indicator ticking at a faster rate.
4. Continue moving the probe tip in a direction that keeps all gas indicators responding in a positive manner.
5. Once the leak source has been passed, all gas indicators will register a decrease in the gas level. At this point, reverse the direction of probing so that the gas indicators once again respond in a positive manner.
6. Repeat Step 5 until a small movement of the probe tip over the leak source results in the rapid indication of increasing and decreasing gas levels.

**Caution:** *The life of a refrigerant sensor depends on the amount of refrigerant that passes through the sensor. Exposing a sensor to a steady stream of highly concentrated refrigerant gas will severely reduce sensor life or damage the sensor.*



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