

The invention relates to a method and a circuit for igniting a gas flow in a fully automatic manner. The aim of the invention is to maintain the necessary current consumption so low that an integratable voltage source can be used. To this end, once an electronic control unit has been activated, a thermoelectric safety pilot valve (2) is opened by an electromagnet which is temporarily excited by a rush of current, is maintained in the open position by a safety pilot magnet (6) by means of a holding current provided by a voltage source (10), and the escaping gas is ignited. Once a thermoelectric couple (4) is provided for the necessary holding current, the voltage source (10) is switched off. In the event of damage, the method is automatically interrupted.