



**worker
beware[®]**

**Working Safely Around
Natural Gas Lines**

Natural Gas Basics

- **Natural gas travels through pressurized underground pipelines of varying diameters.** The size of a gas line is NOT a reliable indicator of the internal pressure.
- **Dominion Energy adds a distinctive, rotten-egg or sulfur-like odor to natural gas to assist in the detection of leaks.** However, in certain conditions, you may not be able to smell this odorant.
- **A natural gas leak can be ignited by a tiny flame or spark—even from a lit cigarette or a phone.**



Call 8-1-1 Before You Dig

- **Call 811 before digging** so lines can be marked and you can dig a safe distance away. Call 811 or use the online ticket-entry system:
 - **ID:** digline.com
 - **OH:** oups.org
 - **NC:** nc811.org
 - **SC:** sc811.com
 - **TX:** texas811.org
 - **UT:** bluestakes.org
 - **WV:** wv811.com
 - **WY:** onecallofwyoming.com
- **Before you call, pre-mark your proposed excavation area** with white paint, flags and/or stakes so locators can easily identify and mark affected utilities.
- **If you don't call 811, you risk hitting an underground gas line.** You or your coworkers could be hurt or killed. You may be held liable for any damages, as well as repairs and outage costs.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



Wait the Required Time

- **Wait for utilities to mark their lines.**
Do not dig until all utility owners have marked their lines or advised you that the area is clear to dig. Wait time for each state is as follows:
 - **ID, UT, WY:** Wait two full business days, excluding the date you call 811, weekends and legal holidays.
 - **OH, WV, TX:** Wait 48 hours, excluding weekends and legal holidays.
 - **SC, NC:** Wait three full business days, excluding the date you call 811, weekends and legal holidays.
- **If you wait the required time and the locate is not completed, do not dig!** Notify the 811 service that your locate request has not been fulfilled.



Conduct a Visual Site Survey











- **Do not rely exclusively on the locate marks.** Look for visual indicators of underground facilities that have not been marked.
- **Check with property owners about any private underground lines** that would not have been marked by the locator.
- **Also check for signs of something buried after the locate was completed,** such as a fresh trench.

Respect the Marks, and Dig with Care

- **Not all utilities are 811 members.** You are responsible for notifying non-member utilities about your project. Check with 811 for more information.
- **Respect the locator marks.** Maintain utility indicator marks, and follow them when digging.
- **Dig with care.** Hand dig to expose marked utility lines and verify their location. Exercise extreme caution when digging near buried utilities, and have a spotter present to observe the excavation whenever heavy equipment is used.
- **Know the underground utility color code:**

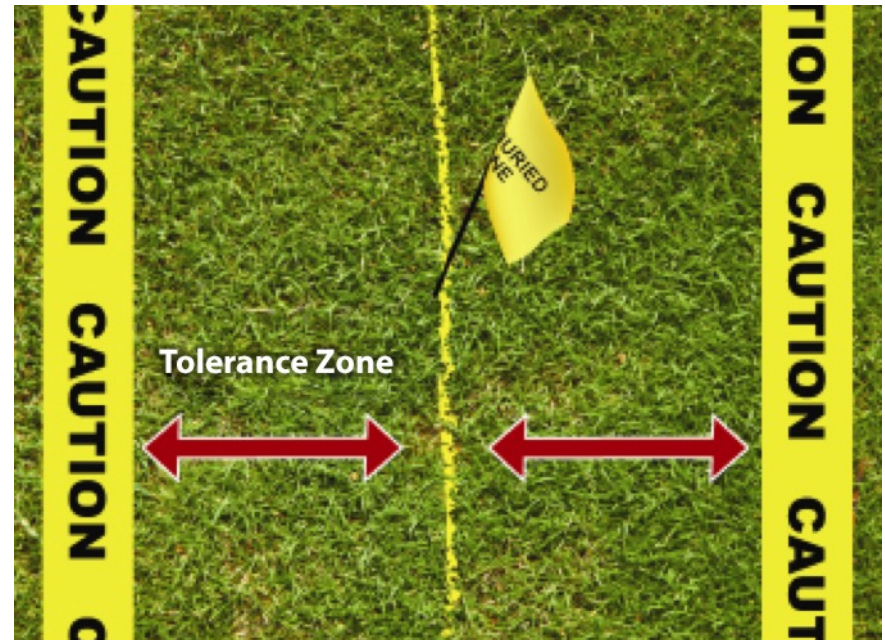
AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION COLOR CODE FOR LOCATOR MARKS



| | |
|---|--|
|  | Electric power lines |
|  | Gas, oil or steam pipelines |
|  | Communications lines, cables or conduit |
|  | Potable water |
|  | Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines |
|  | Sewers and drain lines |
|  | Temporary survey markings |
|  | Proposed excavation |

Respect the Tolerance Zone

- Follow state laws for digging within the “tolerance zone,” a safety area that spans the width of a marked utility plus a specified distance from each indicated outside edge.
- The tolerance zone is a *minimum* safety clearance. Protect yourself by using the *maximum* possible distance.



Know When to Stop Digging

- **If there are no locate marks after you have waited the required time**, do NOT dig. Call 811, and wait until utility lines are marked or you have been notified that the area is clear of lines.
- **If you do not understand the locate marks**, do NOT dig. Ask your supervisor what you must do to work safely.
- **If you cannot visually verify the location of marked natural gas pipelines by hand digging**, STOP digging and contact Dominion Energy immediately.
- **If you find unmarked, mismarked or seemingly abandoned facilities**, STOP digging. Assume all utility lines are in service, and report them to 811.
- **If you see signs of something buried after the locate was complete**, such as a fresh trench, STOP digging. Call 811.
- **If the marks fade or are destroyed**, STOP digging and call 811 to request a new ticket. Do not resume digging until the area is re-marked.



Watch Out Around Pipeline Markers



- **Pipeline markers indicate the need for extra care** around natural gas transmission pipelines.
- **These markers are general indicators only.** They do not show the exact location, path or depth of gas pipelines.
- **The markers should never be used as a substitute for calling 811.**
- **Call the number on the marker if you notice any type of suspicious activity** or construction occurring nearby without Dominion Energy personnel present.

Natural Gas Leak Detection: Look, Listen and Smell

- **Dominion Energy adds a distinctive, rotten-egg or sulfur-like odor to its distribution natural gas pipelines to assist in leak detection.** However, this odor may fade, or you may not be able to smell it. Typically, odorant is not added to transmission pipelines.
- **Don't rely on your nose alone. Use your senses of sight, hearing and smell to detect a natural gas leak.** Here are the signs:
 - The distinctive odor of natural gas
 - Continuous bubbling in water
 - A hissing, whistling or roaring sound
 - Dead or dying vegetation (in an otherwise moist area) over or near a pipeline
 - Dirt blowing into the air from a hole in the ground
 - An exposed pipeline after an earthquake, fire, flood or other disaster
 - Frozen ground in warm weather
 - A damaged connection to a gas appliance



Responding to a Natural Gas Pipeline Leak

- **If you suspect a gas leak or if you contact a gas pipeline, take these steps:**
 - **Warn others and leave the area immediately.**
 - **Do not use matches or lighters, start an engine or operate any electrical device—even a phone.** A spark could ignite leaking gas, causing a fire or explosion.
 - **Leave the excavation open.** Do not operate any gas pipeline valves or attempt to bury or fix the pipeline by folding, crimping or clamping the pipe.
 - **From a safe location, immediately report the incident to 911 and Dominion Energy,** even if there is no visible damage to the pipeline.
 - **Stay away from the area** until utility workers say it is safe to return.
 - **Report the incident to your supervisor.**



Natural Gas Safety Review

- **Call 811 or use your state's online ticket-entry system before you dig.**
- **Pre-mark your dig area with white paint, markers or flags.**
- **Wait the required amount of time before digging.**
- **Conduct a visual site survey before digging.**
- **Respect the marks, and dig with care.**
- **Watch out around pipeline markers.**
- **Know the warning signs of a natural gas leak.**
- **Review your emergency plan, so everyone knows what to do if your equipment contacts a natural gas pipeline.**
- **In a natural gas emergency, leave the area, avoid spark hazards, and call 911 and Dominion Energy immediately.**

811 Information

- **To reach your state's underground utility locator service, call 811 or use the online ticket-entry system:**
 - **ID:** digline.com
 - **OH:** oups.org
 - **NC:** nc811.org
 - **SC:** sc811.com
 - **TX:** texas811.org
 - **UT:** bluestakes.org
 - **WV:** wv811.com
 - **WY:** onecallofwyoming.com
- **ID, UT, WY:** Wait **two full business days**, excluding the date you call 811, weekends and legal holidays.
- **OH, TX, WV:** Wait **48 hours**, excluding weekends and legal holidays.
- **NC, SC:** Wait **three full business days**, excluding the date you call 811, weekends and legal holidays.

Contact Information

- In case of a natural gas emergency, call **911** and Dominion Energy:
 - **OH:** 800-535-3000
 - **NC:** 877-776-2427
 - **SC:** 800-815-0083
 - **TX:** 911
 - **WV:** 800-934-3187
 - **ID, UT, WY:** 800-767-1689
- For additional information, visit Dominion Energy's website at **domsafety.com/contractors**.



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