



**worker**  
**beeware<sup>®</sup>**

## 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](http://digline.com)
  - **OH:** [oups.org](http://oups.org)
  - **NC:** [nc811.org](http://nc811.org)
  - **SC:** [sc811.com](http://sc811.com)
  - **TX:** [texas811.org](http://texas811.org)
  - **UT:** [bluestakes.org](http://bluestakes.org)
  - **WV:** [wv811.com](http://wv811.com)
  - **WY:** [onecallofwyoming.com](http://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.

*Always contact your state 811 center before digging and for the most current requirements.*



**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.



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# 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

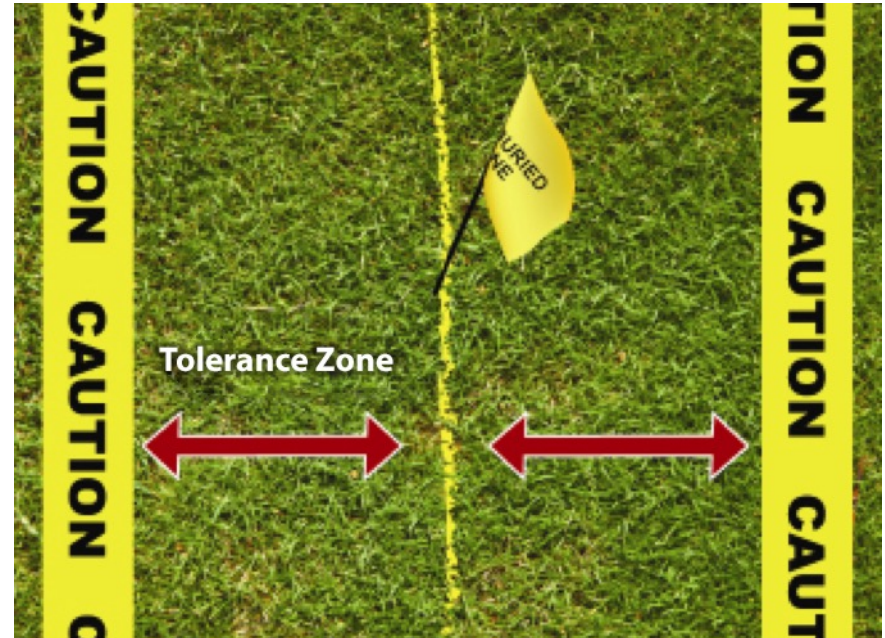


	Electric power lines
	Gas, oil or steam pipelines
	Communications lines, cables or conduit
	Potable water
	Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines
	Sewers and drain lines
	Temporary survey markings
	Proposed excavation

# 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.

*Always contact your state 811 center before digging and for the most current requirements.*





# 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.

*Always contact your state 811 center before digging and for the most current requirements.*

# 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](https://domsafety.com/contractors)**.



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