



## Tips of the trade

### Pipeline safety

Welcome to National Grid's Tips of the Trade. National Grid is committed to your safety, and these tips are intended to help you work safely near our facilities. Please review these tips with your coworkers at your tailgate or toolbox meetings before work begins.

Please help us improve our safety tips to meet your training needs. Take our two-minute survey.

Take survey

## Working safely near cast iron pipes

### Cast iron pipes need special protection

Cast iron natural gas pipelines are the grandfathers of the natural gas distribution system. They've worked hard and done their job well for generations, but now across the country, cast iron natural gas pipelines are being replaced by steel and plastic. At National Grid, we are replacing more than 5% of our cast iron natural gas mains every year, but there are still 4,228 miles left in the system. We need your help protecting these old workhorses until they can be retired.



### Cast iron gas mains are brittle and vulnerable to damage when the earth around or near them is moved in any way



When your excavation encroaches on a cast iron natural gas main by crossing beneath its path or running parallel nearby, special circumstances apply.

Notify National Grid via the 811 ticket immediately when you determine that your excavation might encroach on a cast iron gas main. National Grid gives top priority to cast iron gas mains that are affected by construction activities and provides the following services AT NO COST TO YOU:

1. A National Grid representative may be present during the excavation and will monitor the affected gas main every day for leaks.
2. During your excavation, the National Grid representative will suggest and approve measures to protect the cast iron gas main from potential damage from:
  - Vibrations of heavy equipment, trains, trucks, buses or blasting
  - Impact forces by vehicles
  - Earth movement
  - Future excavations nearby
  - Other forces that might cause that segment of the pipeline to bend
3. If National Grid determines that the cast iron main should be replaced, we will design and install a new plastic main as soon as possible after the necessary permits have been obtained and 811 notification requirements have been met. If the situation is an emergency, the cast iron main will be replaced immediately.

### If you suspect a natural gas leak

Remember the three Rs of natural gas safety: **Recognize, React and Report**. If you RECOGNIZE any signs of a gas leak, REACT by warning others and immediately leaving the area. When you are in a safe place, REPORT the leak by calling 911 and National Grid any time, day or night, at the appropriate emergency number below.

For more contractor safety information, visit [ngridssafety.com](http://ngridssafety.com).



Know what's below.  
811 before you dig.

Smell Gas. Act Fast.

Call 811 or enter an online request at least 72 hours before digging in Massachusetts and Rhode Island (excluding weekends and legal holidays) and at least two full working days in New York (excluding the date of your call, weekends and legal holidays). It's the law!

- Massachusetts and Rhode Island: [digsafe.com](http://digsafe.com)
- Upstate New York: [digsafelynewyork.com](http://digsafelynewyork.com)
- Metro New York, Long Island and the Rockaways: [newyork-811.com](http://newyork-811.com)

### To report emergencies, call 911 and National Grid immediately.

#### In case of gas emergencies:

Long Island and the Rockaways:  
911 and 1-800-490-0045

Metro New York:

911 and 1-718-643-4050

Upstate New York:

911 and 1-800-892-2345

Massachusetts:

911 and 1-800-233-5325

Rhode Island:

911 and 1-800-640-1595

#### In case of electric emergencies:

Upstate New York:

911 and 1-800-867-5222

Massachusetts:

911 and 1-800-465-1212

Rhode Island:

911 and 1-800-465-1212

