



Protect our
gas pipelines.
Protect our
community.

Important Information: School Safety & Emergency Preparedness

(Please share this pipeline safety information with your staff, facilities managers and contractors.)

Dear Superintendent, Principal, Custodial Personnel or Building/Grounds Director,

As you undertake the many challenges of re-opening for in-person instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic, National Grid encourages you to make natural gas safety a top priority. We offer the tips below to help your staff and students prevent and respond to natural gas incidents.

Make natural gas leak recognition and response part of your school's emergency response plan.

Gas pipeline incidents can happen, so you and your staff need to know how to identify a gas leak and what to do in response. Review your school emergency response and evacuation plans and be sure they include these procedures for recognizing and responding to a natural gas leak:

- **Recognizing a gas leak.** The distinctive, sulfur-like odor of natural gas comes from a chemical additive called mercaptan. This odor may fade or be difficult to distinguish, and not all transmission lines are odorized. So don't rely only on your sense of smell to detect a gas leak. Be alert for a hissing, roaring or whistling sound from the ground or from gas equipment; dirt spraying or blowing into the air from a hole in the ground; and continuous bubbling in water.
- **Responding to a gas leak.** If you suspect a gas leak, assume there's a danger. Evacuate everyone immediately. Remind students and staff to maintain social distancing while leaving classrooms and buildings. Gather outdoors at a safe location, far from the site of the possible leak and upwind if possible.
- **DO NOT** use matches, lighters, radios or anything electrical – even a cell phone. **From a safe location, call 911 and National Grid at the emergency number in your area listed below.** Keep everyone far from the leak until emergency response personnel inform you that the premises are safe.

Signs of a natural gas leak



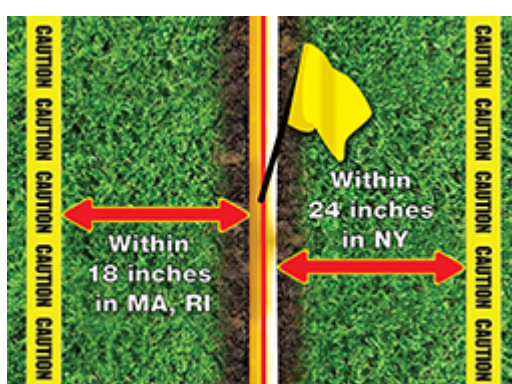
Learn the location of natural gas pipelines in your area.

High-visibility markers with National Grid's 24-hour emergency phone number indicate the general location of our high-pressure natural gas pipelines. These markers are meant only as a general guide and warning and do not mark a pipeline's precise location or depth. You can also locate pipelines in your area by visiting the National Pipeline Mapping System website at <https://pvnpm.phmsa.dot.gov/PublicViewer>.

Help protect natural gas pipelines.

The greatest risk to gas pipelines is accidental damage from digging activities. Even a tiny gouge, scrape, dent or crease to a gas pipe or its coating could lead to a catastrophic fire or explosion. Please share these pipeline damage prevention guidelines with your staff, facilities managers and contractors:

- **Call 811 before you dig.** Call 811 at least 72 hours before digging in Massachusetts and Rhode Island (excluding weekends and legal holidays) and at least two full working days before digging in New York (excluding the date of your call, weekends and legal holidays). This free service will arrange for marking of buried natural gas pipelines in your dig area so nearby excavation can be done safely.
- **Respect the marks and dig with care.** Gas pipelines are marked with yellow flags, stakes or paint marks. Leave these in place until digging is completed. Use only hand tools – no mechanical equipment – within the "tolerance zone," which is within 18 inches of either side of the marked location of buried utilities in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and within the width of a marked utility plus 24 inches from each indicated outside edge in New York. Report any pipeline contact – of any kind – immediately to National Grid at the natural gas emergency phone numbers listed below. If gas is leaking, you must also call 911.



National Grid's underground pipelines deliver natural gas efficiently and reliably to schools, homes and businesses across New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. To ensure the safe operation of these pipelines we:

- monitor our gas operations around the clock;
- inspect pipelines regularly for leaks, defects and corrosion;
- educate the public about safe digging practices;
- conduct training and periodic drills with emergency responders to prevent and prepare for natural gas emergencies.

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

Smell Gas. Act Fast.



Know what's below.
811 before you dig.

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