

nationalgrid



# Natural gas pipeline safety

Protect your employees, your business and our community.

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**IMPORTANT NATURAL GAS SAFETY INFORMATION ENCLOSED.**

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# Digging safely is in your hands.

## Excavator error is the leading cause of damage to our natural gas pipelines in Downstate New York.



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

Whether you are digging post holes for a fence, planting a rosebush or excavating a new foundation, your safety and the safety of your coworkers and our community is in your hands. Nearly all natural gas pipeline damage can be prevented if you follow the safe digging practices listed below.

Never forget: If a gas line is damaged and leaks, serious property damage, injuries or even deaths can follow. **Always** take these safety steps:

- **Call 811 or place an online locate request** at least two full working days ahead, excluding the date of your request, weekends and legal holidays.
- **Wait the required time and verify that all utilities have been marked** by confirming with 811.
- **Remember, locate marks aren't always accurate. Dig test holes to verify the exact location and depth of all marked utilities**, using a rounded or blunt-edged shovel or vacuum excavation.
- **Begin digging off to the side of the marked utility line.** Use a gentle, prying motion to break away soil as you approach the utility laterally.
- **Respect the tolerance zone**, which is the width of a marked utility, plus 24 inches from each indicated outside edge.
- **Use NO power equipment or sharp hand tools** (such as pickaxes or pointed spades) **within the tolerance zone.** Use only blunt hand tools or vacuum equipment.
- Once you've seen the pipeline with your own eyes, **use a spotter to assure your backhoe or other power equipment remains outside the tolerance zone** and away from utility lines.

Protect yourself, your crew and the public. Urge your employees to follow these safety tips when they work around underground natural gas lines.



### Smell Gas. Act Fast.

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**

### Report all utility damage

Just scraping the coating on a gas pipe or cutting its tracer wire could make the pipeline fail and leak or be unlocatable in the future, leading to fire or explosions. **If natural gas is leaking, call 911.** It's the law! Also notify 811.



When Hand Digging Comes in Handy

For additional excavation safety training tips, tools and videos, visit [nagridsafety.com](http://nagridsafety.com).

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