



The Pipeline Safety Pulse

In this issue...

- 1 A message from Mark Prewitt
- 2 Inclusion and diversity dates to remember
- 3 Join a PSMS Element Network today!
- 4 Plant safely on Earth Day
- 4 Plumber safety: Use outdoor gas appliances safely
- 5 April is National Safe Digging Month
- 5 A safety tip for real estate signs
- 6 Dates to remember in March and April
- 6 Pipeline safety spotlight recognition

A message from Mark Prewitt



As winter is winding down, construction season is ramping up, and it's important for us to manage all risks associated with installing new mains and services. One of the key risks is damage to our underground assets. Our damage prevention program has made exceptional progress in working with contractors, excavators and the public to warn about the hazards associated with digging. **April is National Safe Digging Month**, and we will be distributing reminders and materials to educate all stakeholders on the importance of calling 811, following safe digging practices and using hand tools properly. In addition, we will remind them to always conduct a comprehensive job safety brief at construction sites to ensure all hazards

are mitigated, including but not limited to traffic barriers, slippery surfaces and ingress/egress of excavations.

Please be on the lookout for our messages and materials for National Safe Digging Month, and we ask that you share the importance of safe digging with your family, friends and neighbors so we can keep everyone safe.

Sincerely,

Mark Prewitt
Vice President, Pipeline Safety & Compliance
National Grid

Next





Inclusion and diversity



Inclusion and diversity dates to remember

March

- **March 1–31:** Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, Ethnic Equality Month, Gender Equality Month, National Women’s History Month
- **March 3:** Employee Appreciation Day
- **March 8:** International Women’s Day
- **March 15:** Equal Pay Day
- **March 25:** International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

April

- **April 1–30:** Autism Awareness Month, Celebrate Diversity Month, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Volunteer Month
- **April 21:** National Day of Silence (LGBTQIA+)
- **April 22:** Earth Day – theme: “Invest in our planet”
- **April 27–29:** Gathering of Nations – more than 500 Native American tribes celebrate traditions and cultures



Celebrate Diversity Month

April is Celebrate Diversity Month. It’s a great time to learn about an unfamiliar culture, lifestyle or perspective from a new friend, a book, a movie, food, music or dance. Explore and celebrate the diversity around us. Share your own culture by inviting friends to see a documentary or share a dinner representing your cultural heritage. Talk with them about your traditions and values; ask them about theirs. Celebrate the differences and the similarities. Start a new tradition together.





Join a PSMS Element network today!



Are you aware that a new structure has been created to support the 10 Elements of our Pipeline Safety Management System? Each Element has a lead and network that monitor the performance, maturity and progression of the Element. To deliver on our safety goals, we need a wide variety of people to join our networks! Below is a list of the 10 Elements and leads. More Element-specific information is available at Gas Pipeline Safety Management Programs.

Please reach out to Beth McDonough or any of the Element leads listed below to become part of an Element network! It's a great opportunity to learn, connect and be involved!



Leadership, Management and Commitment

Sean Staid (MA & NY)



Stakeholder Engagement

Sakshi Mahajan (NY)
Abirami Thesayi (MA)



Risk Management

Mike Chin (MA)
Pragati Singh (NY)



Operational Controls

Elsworth Andrew (MA)
Dave Malone (NY)



Incident Investigation, Evaluation and Lessons Learned

Pat Locke (MA)
Dave Lammon (NY)



Safety Assurance

Mike Bruno (MA)
Chris Spurchise (NY)



Management Review and Improvement

Sylvia Dunster
(MA and NY)



Emergency Preparedness and Response

Melissa Sullivan (MA)
Kathleen Murray-Phillips (NY)



Competence, Awareness and Training

David Mei (MA)
Scott Ackerman (NY)



Documentation and Recordkeeping

Alec Day (MA)
Annette Saxman (NY)





Plant safely on Earth Day

Earth Day is the planet's largest civic event of the year. Every April 22, millions of people around the globe take part in earth-friendly activities such as litter cleanups, bicycling to school or work, and planting trees, wildflowers and native plants.

If planting a tree or shrub is on your Earth Day to-do list, be sure you don't damage natural gas pipelines in the process. How will you know if the spot you choose is free of buried gas lines? Ask the 811 service! This free service will arrange to have buried utility lines marked so that you can dig a safe distance away from them.

Pre-mark your proposed dig area with white paint, flags and/or stakes, then call 811 or make an online request at **UDigNY.org** (upstate New York), **NewYork-811.com** (downstate New York), or **DigSafe.com** (Massachusetts). Wait the required time for buried lines to be marked: in New York, at least two full working days, excluding the date of your call, weekends and legal holidays; in Massachusetts, at least 72 hours excluding weekends and legal holidays.

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



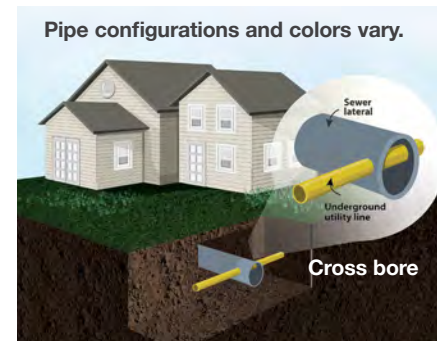
**Know what's below.
811 before you dig.**

Spring safety awareness



Plumber safety: Use outdoor gas appliances safely

Most sewer blockages are caused by tree roots, grease or other routine clogs. However, in rare cases, an electric, gas, water or telecommunications line may be installed directly through a sewer line in what is known as a "cross bore."



Over time, a cross bore in a sewer lateral will cause a blockage. A plumber who attempts to remove the blockage with mechanical equipment risks damaging a live utility line. Damage to a cross-bored natural gas pipe may go unnoticed and allow gas to travel into nearby sewer lines and buildings, causing a fire and explosion risk.

If you or your plumber suspect a gas pipe is obstructing a sewer line, call National Grid at 1-877-370-5047. If a gas pipe has caused the blockage, National Grid will remove the pipe and make repairs at no charge.





811

April is National Safe Digging Month

April was established as National Safe Digging Month in 2008 because that's the month when digging activities begin in earnest every year: Planting and gardening, building and repairing, and cleaning up after winter storms and inactivity. If you're getting the itch to start a new project, remember to call 811 for every job that requires digging to get utility lines marked so you can dig a safe distance away.

When you call or notify 811 online, be prepared to provide accurate and detailed information about your dig site. Be specific about the site itself, and only request marks where the digging will actually happen. Provide GPS coordinates and relevant landmarks and white line your dig area with paint, stakes or flags. Describe the work you intend to do and be sure to provide accurate contact information, so 811 or the utility operator can contact you when necessary.

And spread the word whenever you can to friends, family and neighbors to encourage them to call 811 for any digging project – no matter how small or how shallow it will be.

Spring safety awareness



A safety tip for real estate signs

Safety awareness



Spring brings warmer weather, bluer skies and more real estate listings. What does real estate have to do with gas pipeline safety? Installing real estate signposts requires digging, and even very shallow digging can damage buried gas lines.

According to the Common Ground Alliance, more than 17 percent of reported damages to buried natural gas pipelines occur at a depth of 18 inches or less. So, if you plan to install an "Open House" or "For Sale" signpost, be sure to notify your state 811 service well in advance. This free service will mark the location of buried gas lines and other utilities so that you (or your real estate agent) can dig a safe distance away from them.





Dates to remember in March and April

Upcoming events



- **March 11:** World Plumbing Day
- **March 18:** National Gas Utility Workers' Day
- **April 1–30:** National Safe Digging Month ([see previous page](#))



Please save the date!

- **April 17–20:** Northeast Gas Spring Operations Conference, Saratoga Springs, NY
- **April 19–20:** CGA Conference and Expo, Orlando, FL



Pipeline safety spotlight recognition

Company news



Emilee Butler, Lead Process Manager, Gas Pipeline Safety Incident Analysis and Corrective Actions

Emilee has been instrumental in developing the Gas Pipeline Safety Instructional Guides, facilitating pipeline safety investigations and promoting the importance of developing effective corrective actions. Emilee is always willing to help the gas business, and her actions are aligned with National Grid's values each day. Emilee's wealth of knowledge of the gas business has allowed her to share her knowledge and passion for constructing satisfactory corrective actions in pipeline safety investigations.

Thank you, Emilee, for continually improving the gas business with your help in developing pipeline safety corrective actions.



Every quarter, *The Pulse* will feature an article about an employee or team that you nominate for the Employee Spotlight. Nominate an employee, coworker or team who embodies National Grid values, and we will put them in the spotlight for some well-deserved recognition. Please complete [The Pulse Spotlight nomination form](#), then email the completed form to Lead Communications Specialist Lisa Callahan at lisa.callahan@nationalgrid.com.

