



Important information:

School safety and emergency preparedness



Dear Superintendent, Principal, Custodial Personnel or Buildings/Grounds Supervisor, please share this pipeline safety information with your staff, facilities managers and contractors.

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

Ensure that you and your staff 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 the following procedures for recognizing and responding to a natural gas leak.

Recognizing a gas leak

Be alert for any of the following:

- A distinctive sulfur-like odor
Important: Don't rely on your sense of smell alone; the odor may fade or the gas may not be odorized.
- A hissing, roaring or whistling sound from the ground or gas equipment
- Dirt blowing into the air from a hole in the ground
- Continuous bubbling in water



Signs of a gas leak



Responding to a gas leak

If you suspect a gas leak:

1. **DO NOT** use matches, lighters, cigarettes (including e-cigarettes or vape pens), radios or anything electrical – not even a phone.
2. Take your suspicion seriously.
3. Evacuate everyone immediately.
4. Gather outdoors at a safe location (far from the possible leak and upwind).
5. **Call 911 and National Grid at the emergency number in your area listed below.**
6. Keep everyone far from the leak until emergency response personnel inform you that the premises are safe.

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](#).

Help protect natural gas pipelines.

The greatest risk to gas pipelines is accidental damage from digging activities. Even the slightest damage could lead to a catastrophic fire or explosion. Review these pipeline damage prevention guidelines:

- **Call 811 before you dig.** This free service will arrange for marking of buried natural gas pipelines in your dig area.
 - **Massachusetts:** Call at least 72 hours before digging (excluding weekends and legal holidays).
 - **New York:** Call at least two full working days before digging (excluding the date of your request, weekends and legal holidays).

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

- **Respect the marks and dig with care.**

1. Leave gas pipeline markers in place until digging is completed.
Note: Buried gas pipelines will be identified with yellow flags, stakes or paint marks.
2. Use only hand tools within the "tolerance zone." This zone spans the width of a marked utility line plus a specified tolerance distance from each indicated outside edge:



- **Massachusetts:** 18 inches
 - **New York:** 24 inches
3. Report any pipeline contact immediately to National Grid at the natural gas emergency phone number listed below.
Important: 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 and Massachusetts. 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

For more gas safety information for teachers and students, visit our Energy Explorer website at ngridenergyworld.com.

To report emergencies, **call 911** and **National Grid** immediately. Always **call 911** if you suspect a gas leak!

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

In case of electric emergencies:

Upstate New York:
911 and 1-800-867-5222

Massachusetts:
911 and 1-800-465-1212