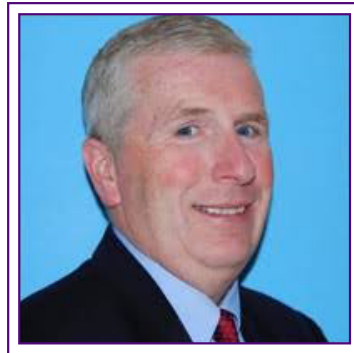




The Pipeline Safety Pulse

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A message from Richard Delaney

April is National Safe Digging Month. It's a time when many of us start planning spring and summer excavation projects and a great opportunity to highlight the importance of our company's damage prevention initiatives.

I'd like to remind us all of an incident that occurred this past winter out west. In early November, a landowner who was installing a drainage pipe damaged a gas transmission main, resulting in an outage that impacted 32,000 customers in Washington State. Multiple towns and municipalities were without gas service for a week and schools, businesses and government agencies closed down due to a lack of heat and hot water. Service restoration took thousands of work hours from company employees and mutual aid partners from eight states.

We all know how important it is to prevent incidents like this one and maintain reliable gas service for National Grid's customers. During the month of April, we will be distributing reminders to educate the public on the importance of notifying the 811 service before digging, respecting the locate marks and following safe digging practices around our gas pipelines. Please join me in sharing our damage prevention messages with family, friends, coworkers and contractors that you may see working in your community. Thank you for doing your part for safe digging!

Richard Delaney
Vice President, Gas Pipeline Safety & Compliance

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Inclusion and diversity



Spring safety awareness



Dates to remember

March

- Women’s History Month
- Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
- Gender Equality Month
- Ethnic Equality Month

April

- Celebrate Diversity Month
- Autism Awareness Month
- Earth Month
- National Volunteer Month
- National Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Celebrate Diversity Month!

Started in 2004, Celebrate Diversity Month is all about recognizing and honoring the wonderful diversity in our world. Whether it’s gender, race, ethnicity, faith or sexual orientation, this month reminds us to embrace our differences as well as what we have in common. Let’s take this opportunity to better understand and appreciate each other, promoting diversity in our workplaces and communities. It’s a time to celebrate what makes us unique in our shared humanity!



Earth Day – Dig safely!

As we gear up to celebrate Earth Day, keep in mind the importance of safe digging.

If tree or shrub planting is on your Earth Day agenda, avoiding damaging natural gas pipelines is essential. Before you pick up that shovel, don’t forget to notify the 811 service to have underground utility lines marked.

Notify 811 even if your excavation is shallow or small, or if you think you already know where utility lines are buried. It’s a simple step that can prevent accidents and protect both you and our vital infrastructure. Let’s keep safety in mind as we work together to make our planet a little greener this Earth Day!





Spread the word about 811

Spring safety awareness



As we welcome spring and embark on outdoor landscaping and construction projects, it's crucial to notify the 811 service before digging to have gas pipelines and other buried facilities located and marked. Whether you're a homeowner planning a DIY project or a professional contractor, following this simple step can prevent costly damage, protect our community's infrastructure and help ensure everyone's safety.

When you contact 811, provide precise details about your dig site, including GPS coordinates and landmarks. Pre-marking your proposed excavation site with white paint, flags and/or stakes can help prevent delays and ensure that utility-locate personnel mark the correct area.

Join us in celebrating Safe Digging Month this April by spreading the word about the importance of notifying 811 before any digging project, no matter the size or depth. Let's work together to promote safe digging practices and build a safer, more resilient community for all.

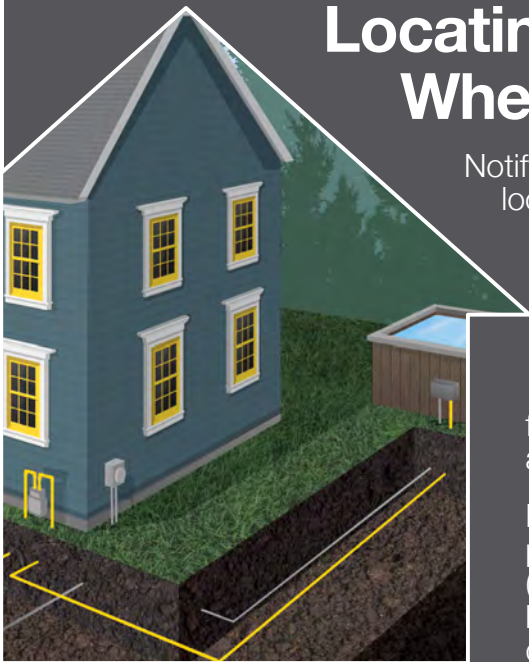


Know what's below.
811 before you dig.



Locating private utilities: When 811 isn't enough

Safety awareness



Notifying 811 before you dig is only half the job when it comes to locating underground utilities. Contractors and homeowners are also responsible for locating privately owned utility lines: the lines beyond the meter that belong to the property owner.

Privately owned utility lines include buried gas and electric lines that run to detached garages, hot tubs, swimming pools, outbuildings, ground-based solar arrays or other facilities. Damaging these lines can be as costly and deadly as contacting utility-owned lines.

Private utility lines will not be marked unless the excavator or property owner arranges for a private utility locate. If you know (or even just suspect) there may be privately owned underground lines in your dig area, hire a private locating company to help you dig safely.





Common Ground Alliance Conference

On April 14–18 in Colorado Springs, CO, Leea Sinay and Bob Terjesen present on National Grid’s new Excavator Safety Training Program at the 2024 Common Ground Alliance (CGA) Conference & Expo.

Upcoming events

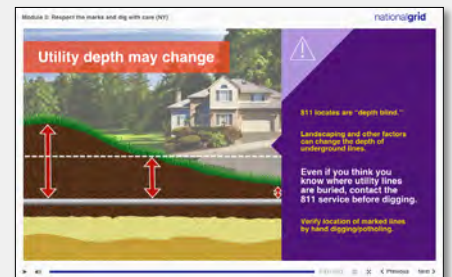


The free online course launched on January 5, 2024!

In collaboration with excavation safety and damage prevention experts, we created a comprehensive resource that aims to teach excavators how to prevent pipeline damage incidents and respond to them safely.

This course tailors its content to third-party excavators working near buried utility gas pipelines. It includes four modules that cover Massachusetts and New York safe-digging laws and 811 center requirements as well as safe-digging techniques and emergency response:

- **Module 1: Personal safety.** Basic job-site safety, OSHA-mandated daily pre-job briefings, the risks of gas pipeline contacts and pipeline marker awareness.
- **Module 2: Partnering with 811.** When and how to request an 811 locate ticket, pre-marking tips, wait times, emergency excavations and positive response.
- **Module 3: Respect the marks and dig with care.** Locate marks, the tolerance zone, potholing, hand digging and vacuum excavation, and cast-iron pipelines.
- **Module 4: Responding to utility contacts.** How to safely respond to gas pipeline contacts, gas leaks and power line contacts.




This program helps meet the growing demand for digital public awareness resources and reinforces the group training resources that National Grid has traditionally provided.





Lunch & Learn: Damage prevention

Upcoming events 

 **You're invited!**

- **Date:** April 5, 2024
- **Time:** 12:00–1:00 pm
- **Location:** MS Teams

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device.

[Click here to join the meeting.](#)

Meeting ID: 222 165 985 73
Passcode: W7jdCs

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Join with a video conferencing device
nationalgrid@m.webex.com

Video Conference ID: 115 214 797 4

[Alternate VTC instructions](#)

[Learn more](#) | [Meeting options](#)



The Damage Prevention and Pipeline Safety and Compliance teams have achieved great results together, significantly reducing third-party pipeline damage throughout NY and New England. Join us as we delve into how we manage risks to our underground assets and support one another through the effort.

Featured Speakers:

- Bob Terjesen
- John Fiume
- Meghan Corkhum

Why is damage prevention so important?

- How can you help prevent damages to gas lines?
- What do all those flags and paint marks on the ground mean?



Employee safety 

See something. Say something!

Every excavation requires an 811 locate to identify buried utility lines. Locate marks may take the form of colored flags, paint marks, stakes or whiskers.

If you notice someone digging in an area without 811 locate marks, it's essential to take action immediately. Politely inform the excavator of the importance of notifying the 811 service before digging to prevent accidents and protect underground utility lines. By speaking up, you could help ensure the integrity of our infrastructure and prevent serious safety hazards.

