



An Important Message

about

Damage Prevention Prior to Excavating

There are thousands of dig-in damage incidents in the United States every year. Striking an underground pipeline may lead to expensive fines, serious injury or death. Gas pipelines are built with safety and reliability as top priorities. However, a natural gas leak may result in fire, explosion, and/or asphyxiation. Natural gas is a colorless, odorless gas; however, a chemical that smells like rotten eggs is added to help detect a possible leak. It's a bad smell that's good!

Some of the signs of a gas leak include seeing bubbling water, hearing a hissing or blowing sound from a pipeline or appliance, dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area, or dirt or dust blowing from the ground, or the smell of rotten eggs.

If you smell gas, or just think you might be smelling gas:

- **Leave** the area immediately
- **Call** your local gas provider at 478-988-2700 or 911 from a neighboring home or business
- **Never** turn on or off switches or use a flashlight or phone in the presence of the gas smell, because an electric spark could ignite the gas, causing an explosion.
- **Stay** in a safe location until the Emergency Responder arrives and gives you clearance to return to the area.

Here are five easy steps to damage prevention:

1. **Survey and Mark** – Survey the proposed excavation area and mark the dig sites in white paint.
2. **Call Before You Dig** - 48 hours prior to digging, call 811 and get free staking of underground utility lines which helps reduce the chance of injury and unneeded expense.
3. **Wait!** Wait the required time to allow utility owners to locate and mark the lines.
4. **Respect the Marks!** Maintain visibility of the marks and safely follow them when digging.
5. **Dig** – Dig with care. Hand excavate within 18-inches of each side of the lines. If you plan to dig anywhere a marked area – especially when using power equipment – use a shovel and carefully hand dig to expose the lines.

If your equipment contacts a gas line:

- **Leave equipment;** jumping clear and shuffling away, without turning off engines or generators.
- **Warn others and leave** the area quickly.
- **Do not operate** any gas pipeline valves or stop the flow of gas.
- Leave the **excavation open.**
- In a natural gas emergency, **call 911**, then City of Perry.



Over the past 20 years, risk exposure has been rising through increased populations, energy consumption and pipeline miles. At the same time, the number of serious pipeline incidents involving death or injury has declined by 50%.

To learn more about our natural gas service and the benefits of natural gas, call 478-988-2700.

Follow These Guidelines to Prevent Damage While Working Near Natural Gas Pipelines

Audience:

Customers and LDC area residents

Excavators

Elected Officials

Messages:

Pipeline Purpose

Leak Recognition & Response

Reliability

Damage Prevention

Hazard Awareness & Prevention

City of Perry AT WORK FOR YOU

Over the past 20 years, risk exposure has been rising through increased populations, energy consumption and pipeline miles. At the same time, the number of serious pipeline incidents involving death or injury has declined by 50%.

Main gas lines, typically 2-inch in diameter, branch into household service lines which are typically half-inch to three-quarter-inch in diameter and buried 12- to 18-inches below the surface. The service lines end at each customer's meter where gas is delivered.

Here are five easy steps to damage prevention:

1. Survey and Mark – Survey the proposed excavation area and mark the dig sites in white paint.
2. Call Before You Dig – 48 hours prior to digging, call 811 and get free staking of underground utility lines which helps reduce the change of injury and unneeded expense. It is a law in Georgia.
3. Wait! Wait the required time to allow utility owners to locate and mark the lines.
4. Respect the Marks! Maintain visibility of the marks and safely follow them when digging.
5. Dig – Dig with care. Hand excavate within 18-inches of each side of the locate marks. If you plan to dig anywhere near a marked area especially when using mechanized equipment – use a shovel and carefully hand dig to expose the lines.

This message was brought to you by City of Perry as part of our Public Awareness Program. For additional information regarding this message, call 478-988-2700



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City of Perry Natural Gas Pipeline Safety



Responding to A Natural Gas Emergency

Important
Information
For
Emergency
Responders
And
Public Officials

Natural gas, America's most popular home heating fuel, is increasingly popular for use by homeowners, schools, businesses, factories and electric power-generation plants because it is efficient, clean, reliable and a relative bargain compared to alternative energy sources.



RECOGNIZING A GAS LEAK

Access the need to evacuate the area including homes, businesses, schools, churches and other facilities. Knowing the signs of a natural gas emergency will help you react quickly and safely.

Signs of a natural gas leak;

- Rotten egg smell
- Bubbles in wet or flooded areas
- Flames, if a leak has ignited
- Hissing or blowing sound from pipeline, storage tank or appliance.
- Dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area.
- Dirt or dust blowing from the ground

BE SAFE – FIRST RESPONDERS

DO NOT attempt to stop or plug the leak. This may cause a spark & ignition that could result in injury or death. Only trained utility employees should take action to stop the flow of gas from damaged gas pipelines.

DO NOT cover a damaged pipeline with dirt in an attempt to stop the leak.

DO NOT attempt to put out a gas fire if ignition occurs. If the fire is not posing a danger to life or property, let the fire burn.

DO NOT turn off vehicles or equipment or use a device like a cell phone, without leaving the area first.

- If a leak has been detected, secure the area around the leak with barricades and other control devices.
- Determine if the leak has caught fire. If it has, try to prevent the spread but DO NOT attempt to extinguish the fire.
- If the leak isn't burning, DO NOT allow smoking in the area.
- Direct all traffic away from the area.
- Access the need to evacuate the area including homes, businesses, schools, churches and other facilities.

IF YOU ARE A PUBLIC OFFICIAL OR
EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDER;

Be Safe. Be Smart. Be Responsible.

BE SMART – FIRST RESPONDERS

Know where the pipelines are. As an emergency responder you have access to the National Pipeline Mapping system (NPMS) that shows the location of inter and intrastate gas pipelines, plants and other facilities throughout Georgia.



PIPELINE MARKERS

Underground pipelines are identified with markers placed above ground. These markers do not indicate the exact location or the depth which may vary greatly.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Natural gas, America's most popular home heating fuel, is increasingly popular for use by homeowners, schools, businesses, factories and electric power-generation plants because it is efficient, clean, reliable and a relative bargain compared to alternative energy sources.

In our community, *City of Perry* provides natural gas to more than 2300 customers through a network of underground distribution lines. Main gas lines, typically 2-inch in diameter, branch into household service lines which are typically half-inch to three-quarter-inch in diameter and buried 12- to 18-inches below the surface. The service lines end at each customer's meter where gas is delivered.

To protect you and others in the community; federal and state government, along with your utility provider have made your safety a high priority. Any time you dig or move earth in any way, you are required to "Call Before You Dig 48 hours before beginning any digging. When you call **811**, they will contact utility owners who will locate all buried utility lines on your property, so you can safely dig and prevent a potentially hazardous condition. Failure to use the **811** system is a known cause of pipeline accidents. Calling before you dig can prevent a costly or even deadly mistake.

Natural gas is a colorless, odorless gas; however, a chemical that smells like rotten eggs is added to help detect a possible leak. Some of the signs of a gas leak include seeing bubbling water, hearing a hissing or blowing sound from a pipeline or appliance, dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area, or dirt or dust blowing from the ground, or the smell of rotten eggs.

If you smell gas, or just think you might have a gas leak, **leave** the area immediately and call *City of Perry* at **478-988-2700** or **911** from a neighboring home or business. **Never** turn on or off switches, open or close garage doors, use a flashlight or phone/cellphone in the presence of the gas smell, as these devices may be a source of ignition, causing an explosion.

Do your part to familiarize yourself and your family with these natural gas safety tips and continue to enjoy the value, comfort and benefits of America's cleanest, most efficient energy source!

This message is brought to you by *City of Perry* as a public service. For additional information regarding this message, please call **478-988-2700**.

