
Don't Go



Contractor/Excavator Natural Gas Safety



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

We hear of natural gas accidents almost on a regular basis. Seems every year; a gas explosion grabs the headlines. MLGW wants to help you avoid making those headlines and stay safe in Shelby County. Here are some natural gas safety tips you can apply to your digging, excavating and construction jobs.

- Before any job that involves digging, call 811 to get underground utilities located and marked. It's the law, and it's free. Allow three business days (72 hrs.) for the marking to take place. Don't dig before utilities are marked.
- Make sure all utility operators have identified and marked their utilities before digging by checking Tennessee One Call's (TN811) Positive Response website at <http://www.tn811.org/positiveresponse.html>. If not, call for a Second Notice Request.
- Take photos of markings for reference. Learn what the colored markings represent.
- On long-term jobs, hold tailgate meetings to review locations of utilities. Markings can erode; marked concrete barriers, etc. may have been relocated.
- Hand tools and vacuum equipment are valuable tools to pinpoint exact locations of buried utilities; use them as a back-up for marked lines.
- If you damage a natural gas pipeline, gasses can ignite, an explosion can occur and oxygen can be displaced making it difficult to breathe.
- Should underground utilities get damaged, have someone present who can settle claims onsite.



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– The following conditions can indicate a gas pipeline leak:

- A strange odor like rotten eggs or sulfur
- A hissing sound
- Bubbles in pool of standing water
- Dirt blowing from hole in ground
- Dead plants or vegetation
- Ice or frozen soil next to pipeline

– In the event of a pipeline leak:

- Avoid actions that could cause spark or flame
- Don't turn machinery on or off
- Evacuate the area and keep others away
- Don't operate cell phones, flashlights or other electric or battery-operated devices in leak area



- Call MLGW's emergency line – 528-4465 – and/or call 911 from phone away from leak area

– MLGW Pipeline Reliability



Natural Gas is one of the most reliable, efficient and environmentally safe sources of energy. MLGW is committed to providing natural gas in a safe and reliable way to its customers. MLGW performs regular maintenance and surveys on its pipelines, and evaluates and replaces pipelines as needed.

– More Info

Pipeline marker More information about natural gas safety and accident prevention can be found at the Tennessee 811 website at tenn811.com. Gas safety and contractor information can be found on MLGW's website at mlgw.com.

You can find maps of natural gas transmission pipelines on the National Pipeline Mapping System at www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov.

Please keep this gas safety guide handy on the job; you can request more for your crews by calling MLGW Communications and PR at (901) 528-4557.



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