



Working safely around natural gas utilities



Your safety is important to us.

We work hard to deliver safe and reliable natural gas service to our customers, and we want you to be safe while working near our above- or below-ground facilities. We construct, operate, maintain and inspect our natural gas system in accordance with state and federal pipeline safety regulations. If a potential problem is discovered, our crews respond and resolve the problem, following current industry standards and best practices.

In addition to following proper excavating practices, there are **two main rules contractors and excavators should always keep in mind while working near natural gas lines:**

1. Call or click before you dig.

To prevent a hazardous situation while digging, contact Gopher State One Call at 811 or 800-252-1166 at least two business days before you plan to dig.

call811.com



SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS.
EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME.

Representatives will mark utility-owned underground facilities for free within two working days. Locate requests for emergency purposes will be expedited. We may not be the only pipeline operator in an area. To find out which pipeline operators have transmission facilities in an area, visit the National Pipeline Mapping System website at npms.phmsa.dot.gov.

2. Contact us immediately if line contact occurs.

Call us immediately at **800-889-4970** if you hit or damage any of our natural gas facilities. Even minor damage can cause major problems. Be sure to contact Minnesota Energy Resources immediately if you have any contact with underground lines.

Following these simple rules will help you avoid potentially dangerous situations and expensive mistakes.

Marking Minnesota Energy Resources facilities

We mark our facilities with paint, flags or stakes. Facilities greater than 2 inches in diameter are labeled as such. Remember to adjust your tolerance zone to accommodate the increased size of the facility. When we can't place markers directly over buried facilities, arrows and numbers on a stake or on the ground mark the distance and direction to the buried facilities.

Yellow = natural gas facilities

Clear = no buried facilities

If there are no Minnesota Energy Resources facilities present, you should find a clear flag(s) with a ticket number written on it. If you do not see either marks or a clear flag, call for a relocate. Also call for a relocate when you see:

- Yellow marker posts – indicating natural gas facilities are in the area. These posts are not placed on the exact location of the facility. Never rely on them for excavating purposes.



If you have questions about the marks or locates, contact our locators directly. The locating company name and phone number are on the solid-color flags.

Unmarked facilities

If you discover an unmarked or apparently mismarked facility, contact us immediately. Never assume an unmarked facility is abandoned. Treat all facilities as though they are live. Only Minnesota Energy Resources personnel have the tools and skills to safely differentiate live versus abandoned facilities.



Damaged facilities

If you damage or observe damage to our facilities, stop work and contact us at:

Natural gas facility damage: **800-889-4970**

If someone is injured due to damaged natural gas facilities or the damage causes natural gas to be released, call 911 immediately, then contact Minnesota Energy Resources.

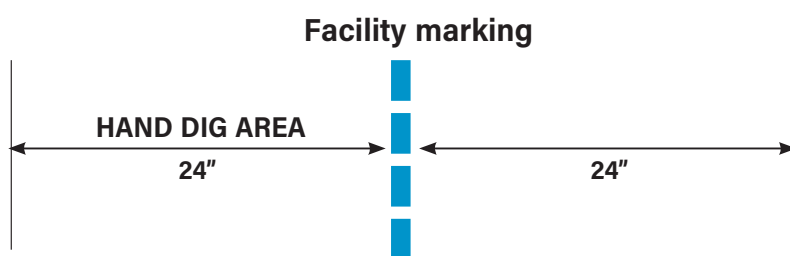
Buried facilities

Use the clearance guidelines below when working around buried facilities. Keep in mind: Existing grades can change, and the current depth of an electric or natural gas line may be different than when originally installed.

Minnesota digging clearance requirements

Unexposed facilities

Hand digging must be performed when working within 24 inches of either side of facility markings.



Trenchless technology (boring, directional drilling)

Always expose facilities to verify their depth and location when using trenchless technology.

Natural gas pipeline safety

Natural gas and the underground pipeline distribution systems that carry it have outstanding safety records. The distribution systems are regularly surveyed and problems rarely occur. To perform mandated pipeline safety inspections, we must have clear access to the pipeline right of way. The areas on either side of the pipeline must be kept clear of debris, trees, sheds and other structures.

Natural gas will not burn by itself. However, if mixed with the right amount of air, natural gas can ignite. Natural gas is nontoxic, but in an enclosed area, it may displace oxygen in the air, which can lead to suffocation.

Contact us immediately at **800-889-4970** if you:

- Smell the strong odor of natural gas, similar to rotten eggs.
- Hear a hissing, whistling or roaring sound.
- See dirt or debris blowing into the air.

Go to www.minnesotaenergyresources.com/contractorsafety for more safety information.