

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR NATURAL GAS LEAKS

OUTDOORS

- Turn off all power equipment. Remove all ignition sources. Extinguish all smoking materials. Do not use electrical switches. Keep everyone at a safe distance. Do not try to bury the leak.
- Call **911**, which is required by law, and contact WPS at **800-450-7280** for emergency response. This number is available 24 hours a day.
- Keep bystanders away. Stay upwind from the leak.
- If the gas ignites, let the flames burn unless lives or property are in danger. Putting out the fire without shutting off the source of the leak can make the situation worse.
- If necessary, evacuate nearby buildings. Close windows in nearby buildings to prevent natural gas build-up in those structures.

About natural gas

Natural gas is a colorless, odorless, non-toxic gas that is used as an energy source. To make it easier to detect leaks, a harmless but pungent-smelling chemical is added to give natural gas a distinct odor.

Prevention is key to community safety

At WPS, we work hard to ensure our pipelines and communities stay safe and secure. Our prevention measures include:

- Providing training and educational materials to contractors and related businesses on safe digging practices.

INDOORS

- Evacuate the building immediately. Protect human life first.
- Do not use doorbells, electrical switches or telephones inside the building. These are potential ignition sources and could cause an explosion.
- Call WPS for emergency response at **800-450-7280**.
- Stand by at a safe distance until emergency help arrives.

- Regularly inspecting our natural gas system including patrols, leak surveys and corrosion inspection.
- Keeping our workforce properly trained and qualified.
- Designing pipelines to ensure the safe delivery of natural gas.
- Marking and mapping pipeline facilities.
- Pipeline integrity management programs.
- Working with local emergency responders to help prevent and prepare for emergencies.
- Educating the public on how to prevent, recognize and respond to natural gas leaks.

CALLING INSTRUCTIONS

- Call Before You Dig: **811**
- Underground facilities including natural gas line locations will be marked within three working days.
- In the event of an emergency, call WPS immediately at **800-450-7280**.

PARA TRADUCCIONES

Le proporcionamos esta información como cliente. Si desea recibir una traducción, llame al **800-450-7260**.



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NATURAL GAS SAFETY TIPS FOR CONTRACTORS

Safety at your service



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE FROM UNDERGROUND GAS LINES. THINK AND ACT BEFORE YOU DIG ... IT'S THE LAW.

NEVER MAKE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT WHAT'S UNDERGROUND. BURIED UTILITY LINES ARE A SERIOUS, POTENTIALLY LIFE-THREATENING HAZARD. NEVER TAKE CHANCES. ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.

Hazards of natural gas

When mixed with air, natural gas can be explosive. Although some natural gas-air mixtures will not burn, the only safe practice is to assume that leaking natural gas is always explosive and dangerous.

To burn or explode, natural gas needs an ignition source. Examples of ignition sources include open flames, electrical sparks, mechanical sparks, static electricity discharges and cell phones. If natural gas is leaking, exceptional care must be taken to avoid creating such a source.

Natural gas is not toxic but can cause asphyxiation by displacing oxygen levels in enclosed spaces.

Danger underground

Underground facilities include lines that carry natural gas, electricity, water, sewage and telephone signals. Accidental breakage to these lines can interfere with vital community services. Damage to natural gas pipelines can have disastrous consequences including fire and explosion.

Pipeline facilities

Natural gas pipelines may be made of metal, plastics or fiberglass with diameters from 1/2 inch to 36 inches or larger. Pipeline facilities are installed at the depth required by the current codes, but surface grades change with time. The current depth of a pipeline may be quite different than what was required when installed.

As a contractor or excavator, YOU are responsible for:

- Calling to have all underground facilities located.
- Maintaining appropriate safety clearances during excavations.
- Reporting any possible damage to buried facilities.

Your legal responsibilities

Section 182.0175 of the Wisconsin Statutes specifies precautions required of contractors and excavators regarding pipeline facilities. Here are some of the law's key points. Refer to the complete text of the law for the full requirements. (Michigan has similar requirements.)

During excavation, you must:

- Plan all work to protect and avoid interference with pipeline facilities in and near the excavation area.
- Provide the local One-Call System no less than three business days advance notice before starting any non-emergency excavation or digging. Provide a repeat notice to the One-Call System if previous marks are destroyed or covered by excavation activities, if the excavation does not begin within ten days of the scheduled start date, or if the excavation is interrupted for ten days or more.
- Maintain a minimum clearance of 18 inches between any marked unexposed underground pipeline facility and the cutting edge of any power-operated equipment. If the pipeline facility is exposed, the excavator may reduce the clearance to two times the known control limit of the cutting edge or point of the equipment or 12 inches, whichever is greater.
- In an emergency, take all reasonable precautions to avoid interfering with existing pipeline facilities. As promptly as possible, notify the owners of pipeline facilities that may have been affected by the emergency excavation.

When backfilling, you must:

- Follow procedures specified by the existing pipeline facility owner or in a manner that ensures full protection of the pipeline facility, including support.

- Inspect all exposed pipeline facilities for indications of having been struck, damaged, dislocated or disrupted. If such evidence is found, you must immediately notify the pipeline facility owner. You may not proceed further until the owner has inspected the facility and approved backfilling.



Further requirements and recommendations

Wisconsin Public Service requires that you:

- Support and protect exposed natural gas pipelines. These lines must not incur damage caused by moving or settling. They must be protected from falling objects.
- Use well-compacted soil during backfilling operations to provide proper support.
- Provide immediate notice if you accidentally gouge, dent, nick or scratch a natural gas pipeline. The same is true if you find potential damage from any other cause.

Remember – Damage to any natural gas facility must be inspected by gas company personnel before backfilling.



**Determina lo que está bajo tierra.
Llama antes de excavar.**