

Be Safe. Dig Smart. Call First.

Call before you dig! When you plan to dig or move dirt with mechanical equipment, call **811** at least 48 hours before you dig. Your call to **811** will be directed to the local One Call Center who will then contact affected utilities to have the facilities in your area marked.

Failure to use **811** is a known cause of pipeline accidents. Calling before you dig is the law and can prevent a costly or even a deadly mistake. Striking an underground pipeline may result in fire, explosion and/or asphyxiation.

Here are some simple steps to damage prevention:

- ✓ **Survey and Mark** – Survey proposed excavation areas and mark the dig sites in white paint
- ✓ **Call Before You Dig** – 48 hours prior to digging, call **811** to have underground facilities located. It is the law in Georgia.
- ✓ **Wait the Required Time** – Allow utility owners time to locate and mark the lines
- ✓ **Respect the Marks** – Maintain visibility of the marks and safely follow them when digging
- ✓ **Dig with Care** – Hand excavate within 24-inches of each side of the locate marks. If you plan to dig anywhere near a marked area, especially using mechanized equipment, use a shovel and carefully hand-dig to expose the lines.

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 Your Equipment Contacts a Gas Line:**

- **Leave equipment;** jumping clear and shuffling away – DO NOT turn off the engine.
- **Warn others and leave** the area quickly; DO NOT congregate around natural gas facilities
- **Do not operate** any gas pipeline valves or stop the flow of gas or try to fold over plastic pipelines
- Leave the **excavation open.**
- If gas is escaping the pipeline, **call 911** then **City of Elberton** at **706-213-3278**
- If the line is nicked, scraped, gouged, dented or otherwise damaged but not leaking, call **City of Elberton** at **706-213-3278**; these may appear to be minor but can lead to future leaks if not properly repaired



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.

To protect yourself and this community, federal and state government, along with **City of Elberton** has made reliability and safety high priorities. For additional information regarding this message, please call us at **706-213-3278**.