

Compliance with Section 192.16 of the Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Pipeline Safety Regulations, requires North Alabama Gas District (NAGD) to provide this notice to our customers and neighbors.

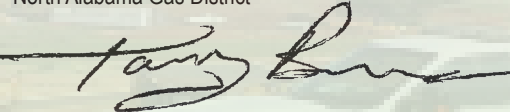
NAGD does not maintain customer owned piping, buried or above ground. Customer owned piping is defined as any piping on the outlet side, or customer side, of the NAGD meter which is located at your residence, business, school, church, industry, or other entity at which NAGD delivers natural gas.

Accordingly, the customer should be aware of the following information:

1. Buried piping which is not maintained may be subject to potential hazards of corrosion and leakage.
2. Buried gas piping should be-
 - a. periodically inspected for leaks
 - b. periodically inspected for corrosion if metallic
 - c. repaired if an unsafe condition is found
3. When excavating near buried gas piping, the piping should be located in advance and excavation should be performed by hand.
4. Qualified contractors can assist in locating, inspecting, and repairing customer's buried piping.

Please contact North Alabama Gas District if you have questions regarding this notice. We appreciate your time and consideration in this matter.

North Alabama Gas District



Tony Burns, General Manager

WE TAKE SAFETY SERIOUSLY:

Contact Numbers by District:

256-383-3306 Colbert & Lawrence County Area

256-772-0227 Madison & Limestone County Area



TO OUR CUSTOMERS AND NEIGHBORS:

Compliance with federal and state pipeline safety regulations requires North Alabama Gas District (NAGD) to provide gas pipeline safety information to our customers and to those who live or work near our gas pipeline facilities. Additionally, excavators, public officials, and emergency responders may be receiving this information. Our goal in providing this information is that a better understanding of who we are and what we do will help keep our communities, our families, and our property safe.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **WHO WE ARE:** North Alabama Gas District (NAGD) provides natural gas service to approximately 23,000 customers in Colbert, Lawrence, Limestone, and Madison counties of north Alabama. This service is provided through a network of underground steel and polyethylene pipelines of varying sizes and operating pressures. We also have above ground facilities such as regulator stations, valve settings, pipeline interconnects, and customer meter sets. You also may recognize our yellow pipeline markers.
- **WHAT IS NATURAL GAS:** Natural gas is colorless, odorless, and lighter than air. It is also one of the cleanest, safest, and most affordable sources of energy for residential, commercial, and industrial use. However, natural gas is extremely flammable and can be ignited by various means including the smallest spark or flame. Any natural gas leak can be potentially hazardous.
- **HOW TO RECOGNIZE A LEAK:** An odorant is added to natural gas to give it a very distinct "rotten egg" smell. If you smell gas or think you smell gas, hear a blowing, roaring or hissing sound, see dirt blowing into the air, notice bubbling in standing water, or witness a fire or explosion which could involve natural gas you should respond accordingly.



- **HOW TO RESPOND TO A SUSPECTED LEAK:** If you suspect a gas leak – leave the area and call your local NAGD office or 911 immediately from a safe location. Never turn lights or appliances on or off, light matches, smoke, create a spark or flame, use phones or any other potential ignition source in the presence of natural gas. This includes motorized equipment and automobiles. Also, warn others to stay away and never attempt to operate NAGD owned equipment or facilities.

- **DAMAGE PREVENTION:** The greatest risk to underground pipeline facilities is accidental damage caused by excavating activities. We want you to know that our facilities are close by. "Call Before You Dig" or before you perform any type of subsurface disturbing activity. State and Federal law requires 48 hour notice prior to digging. Call Alabama One Call at 1-800-292-8525 (or simply dial 811) to have underground utilities located. This helps prevent costly and sometimes even deadly accidents.

- **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PRIORITIES:** NAGD is committed to the safety of our customers, our employees, and the general public. We work closely with public safety officials and emergency responders to ensure the appropriate response to any and all emergencies involving our facilities.

Natural gas is a safe and reliable form of energy. We want it to stay that way and, therefore, we go to great lengths to minimize all risks associated with operating our gas pipeline facilities. We ask you to partner with us in this effort. *Please contact us as indicated below if you have questions or if additional information is needed.*

Colbert & Lawrence County Area
602 Dearborn Ave. • P.O. Drawer 2590
Muscle Shoals, AL 35662
(256) 383-3306 • Fax (256) 386-0627

Madison & Limestone County Area
108 Church St. • P.O. Box 1428
Madison, AL 35758
(256) 772-0227 • Fax (256) 772-8098


HAZARD AWARENESS & PREVENTION MEASURES:

Like all forms of energy, natural gas must be handled properly. A gas leak caused by damage to a natural gas pipeline may pose a public hazard and has the potential to ignite. NAGD works diligently to ensure pipeline safety through:

- Coordination with 811 (1-800-292-8525 or 811) to locate underground utility lines prior to digging
- Ongoing inspection programs and stringent workforce qualifications for employees
- Industry-standard design and construction practices
- Alabama Public Service Commission oversight

Respect the Marks

The underground facilities at your project site will be identified by color coded paint, stakes or flags. Once the markings are placed, it is important that no one remove them until the project is complete.



Red - Electric

Yellow - Gas, oil or petroleum

Orange - Communications

Blue - Potable water

Purple - Reclaimed water, irrigation

Green - Sewer

White - Proposed excavation

Pink - Temporary survey

Important Reminders:

The depth of buried utility lines is not guaranteed. Never assume that a facility is the same depth throughout the route where it was exposed.

White is the designated color for Proposed Excavation. Pre-marking, also known as white-lining, your intended excavation area with white paint or flagging when applicable can improve the speed and accuracy of your locate request and is an aide in preventing damages.

Be aware that there are utility lines found just a few inches under the ground's surface. Most likely the lines were buried at a prescribed depth, but over a period of time soil erosion or grading operations may have altered the original depth.

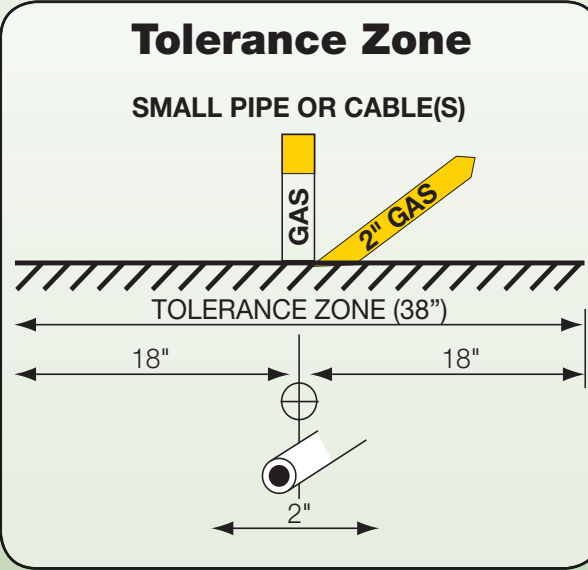
Note to homeowners: In some instances a utility company may not locate your property because some underground facilities are customer owned. This happens most often with water and sewer laterals (those running from the meter to your house). Other lines considered customer-owned include, but may not be limited to, lines for outside lighting, invisible fencing, irrigation systems and customer fuel lines, or any other customer owned lines.

Dig Safely

How do I know where it is safe to dig?

The safety zone, also known as the tolerance zone, is a strip of land the width of the utility, plus 18" on either side of the color coded markers. Alabama's Underground Damage Prevention Act has established guidelines to avoid damage when working in the 18" tolerance zone area;

- Utilize non-invasive methods to determine the exact location of the marked facilities. This is usually accomplished by using hand tools, potholing, or vacuum excavation techniques;
- Maintain a clearance of at least 18 inches between the underground facility and the known cutting edge or point of any mechanized equipment;
- Provide support of the underground facilities;
- Protect and preserve the markings of the approximate location until markings are no longer required for proper and safe excavation practices.



Pipeline markers & flags identify the approximate location of underground pipeline facilities. Markers & flags also provide relevant contact information for North Alabama Gas District. Please do not destroy the markers & flags as they are there for a reason.


5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below.
Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com


1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.




2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.




3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.

