



# Work safely around natural gas utilities

PEOPLES GAS®

NORTH SHORE GAS®



## 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 your local one-call system at least two business days before you plan to dig.



Call: **811** Or  
Click: **call811.com**

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](http://npms.phmsa.dot.gov).

### 2. Contact us immediately if contact occurs.

Call us immediately if you hit or damage any of our natural gas facilities. Even minor damage can cause major problems. Be sure to contact us immediately if you contact any underground lines.

**Peoples Gas: 866-556-6002**

**North Shore Gas: 866-556-6005**

**Peoples Gas or North Shore Gas facilities outside of distribution services areas: 800-328-8700**

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

#### Marking Peoples Gas or North Shore Gas facilities

We mark our facilities with paint, flags or stakes. Remember to adjust your tolerance zone to accommodate the increased size of the facility. When we can't place markers directly over buried facilities, we put arrows and numbers on a nearby stake or on the ground to mark the distance and direction to the buried facilities.

**Yellow = natural gas facilities**



## Natural gas facility damage

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

**Peoples Gas: 866-556-6002**

**North Shore Gas: 866-556-6005**

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**If someone is injured due to damaged natural gas facilities or the damage causes natural gas to be released, call 911 immediately, then contact Peoples Gas or North Shore Gas.**

If no Peoples Gas or North Shore Gas facilities are present, you may see a yellow flag that says "All Clear," which indicates there are no buried facilities in the area.

Also call for a locate when you see:

- Any indication that new facilities have been buried since your original locate request (i.e. new flags, ground disturbance, new meter set, etc.).
- Yellow marker posts indicate 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 or call 811.

#### Unmarked facilities

If you discover an unmarked or apparently mismarked facility, call 811. Never assume an unmarked facility is abandoned. Treat all facilities as though they are live.

Only Peoples Gas or North Shore Gas personnel have the tools and skills to safely differentiate live versus abandoned facilities.



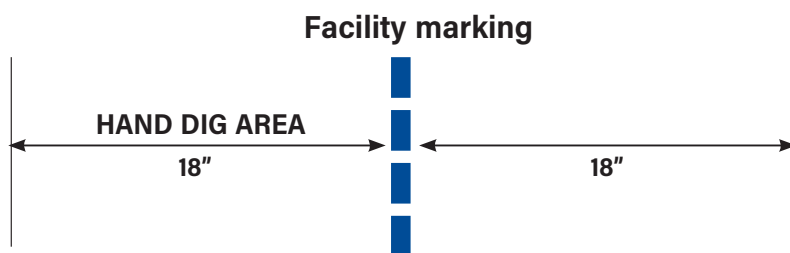
### Buried facilities

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

## Illinois digging clearance requirements

### Unexposed facilities

Hand digging should be performed within 18 inches of either side of facility markings. Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas prefer hand digging 24 inches on either side of the buried pipe.



### Exposed facilities

The tolerance zone shall be cleared to the depth of your excavation as a precaution to avoid damage to the marked facility.

### Trenchless technology (boring, directional drilling)

**Do not blind bore.** All gas facilities shall be exposed within your proposed bore path. Failure to take precautions can result in injury to anyone near the excavation. Always expose facilities to verify their depth and location when using trenchless technology.

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versión en español*



## 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.

While working near a pipeline, contact us immediately 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.

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