

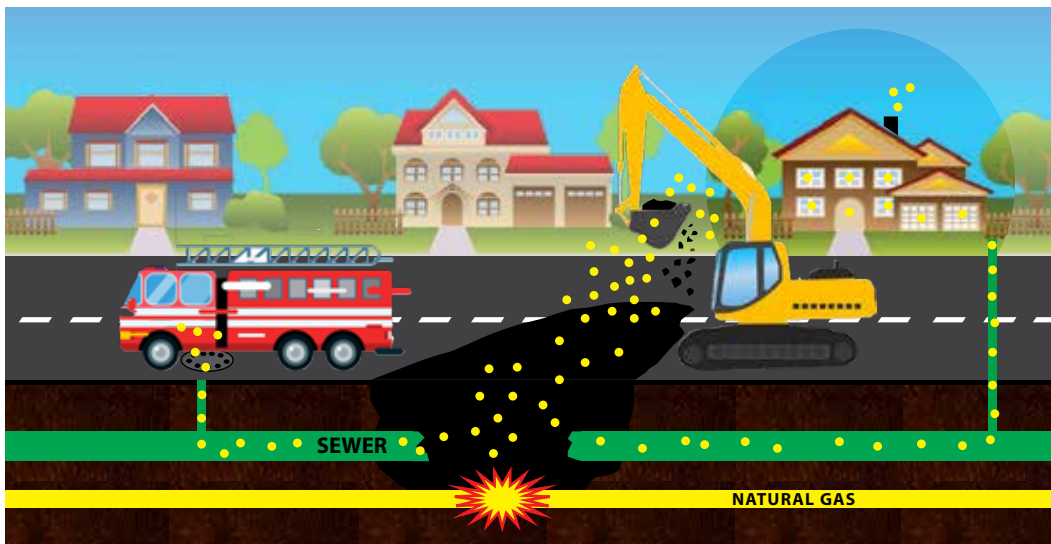


# THE excavator e-news

spring 2016

BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER FOR EXCAVATORS

## The Unseen Dangers of Gas Migration



Striking a gas line has certain obvious dangers, but there is another danger to leaking gas that might not be visible to the naked eye. Natural gas is methane – CH<sub>4</sub>, which is lighter than air and will rise into the atmosphere. Leaking gas can become **trapped** underground by concrete, asphalt, or even a layer of frost and, as a result, may migrate underground for long distances. In this way, it can escape to the atmosphere or enter buildings at a distance from the original leak site. It can even enter the sewer system or underground electrical or communications conduits and travel long distances, eventually entering structures far from the strike zone. Avoid parking company vehicles over electric or sewer manholes where migrating gas may have accumulated. The vehicles could easily provide an ignition source, endangering responders or employees working on repairs.

### Evacuation May Be Needed

When gas is escaping from a broken pipe, buildings in the area may need to be evacuated. This is the responsibility of the excavator, according to the SC Underground Facility Damage Prevention Act. If you have damaged a gas line and suspect leaking gas may be entering or migrating into a building, take immediate action to evacuate the occupants and call 9-1-1. Your prompt action may save lives or prevent serious injury or property damage. DO NOT leave a potentially hazardous situation to chance.

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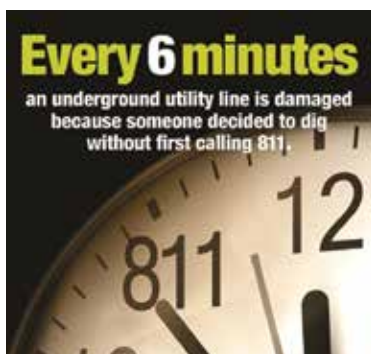
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### Know the Risks:

Natural Gas travels from the wellhead to consumers through a series of pipelines. These pipelines — including flow lines, gathering lines, transmission lines, distribution lines and service lines — carry gas at varying rates of pressure.

*The higher the pressure of gas in a pipeline, the more potentially dangerous an accident with that pipeline could be.*



Pipeline Markers  
Located near roads, railroads, fences and along the pipeline right-of-way

Aerial Marker

Casing Vent Markers

Pipelines are buried underground and pipeline markers, such as those shown to the left, do not always sit directly above the pipeline. Call 811 to ensure all pipelines are marked and flagged. The service is free and required by law.





# Gas Markers ≠ Gas Lines

You see the YELLOW gas marker, so the gas line must be right underneath it, right?

**WRONG**

Brightly colored natural gas pipeline markers indicate buried utilities are nearby, but they do not indicate the exact location or the depth of the pipeline. Markers are generally found at road, railway and river crossings and along fence lines and property boundaries. Pipelines, however, do not always run in a straight line and markers may not be present in certain areas.



*Always*

**... contact 811 to have utility lines located before beginning excavation work.**

## Locating is a “High Pressure” Job

*You’ve called in a locate request to SC811, but what happens next?*

Submitting a locate request to have underground utility lines marked is a FREE service to anyone doing large or small digging projects, but SC811 does not physically mark the underground utility lines. They notify the member utility operators who are responsible for having the lines located.

Meet **Keith Currence**, a specialist for York County Natural Gas who locates the Authority’s high pressure gas lines. His day begins by reviewing the new requests that rolled in overnight. Today there are 54 new requests and about half that many pending from prior days. Keith decides a trip to the break room coffeepot is in order. After a

caffeine kick-start he finds a large percentage of the new notices don’t require marking since they’re not in the vicinity of a high pressure line, but each address and description gets analyzed.

York County Natural Gas has almost 1,800 miles of pipeline, so Keith plans out his route before pulling out of the garage. Certain locate requests have priority, but as he heads out a call comes in changing the day’s plans. A contractor is on site and ready to meet, so that request moves up in line. We stop off first to a site already located and talk to the superintendent confirming the road project is not changing course. Once confirmed Keith freshens up the previous paint marks and we’re off to meet the contractor who’s waiting just up the road.

“You have to be a people person to do this job,” says Keith and fortunately for Keith, he’s never met a stranger. As the day progresses Keith continually greets people saying “Hi, my friend, how’re you doing?” In addition to meeting people and marking the location of gas lines, Keith also patrols the utilities rights-of-ways checking for damaged markers, exposed pipe, clearance or infringement from property owners, potential damage, and accessibility to the pipeline.



### *What Keith wants you to know...*

- **Safety is #1.** His job is to accurately mark the location of high pressure gas lines to keep you and the surrounding area safe when digging. He’s there to assist you, so if the job changes or takes a new route, he needs to know.
- Some locate sites are quite large. **PRE-MARK the planned excavation with white paint.** Otherwise he might spend a whole morning marking gas lines that may not be in the dig zone.
- He’s available and **prefers to be on site** to watch a dig occurring in close proximity to a high pressure line. Any contact with a high pressure line could cause an immediate safety concern or future corrosion and should be reported.
- When driving, be cautious of workers near the roadway. **Respect work zones.** Keith and other utility and road crew workers wear reflective vests to be highly visible. Slow down, be alert and avoid distractions while they do their jobs.



# What if...?

Striking an underground utility line can be dangerous and deadly, especially when a combustible material like natural gas is involved. A recent survey by the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) found that nationwide, an underground utility is damaged by digging every six minutes.

## “So, what if you strike a gas line?”



### Whew... I nicked it, but didn't dent or damage it.

Report it anyway! If you hit the tracer wire or come into contact in anyway with a pipeline it's important for you to call in a report. Call even if there is no apparent damage. DO NOT assume that damage occurs only at the contact point. A pipeline that is pulled or bumped could break some distance away from the contact point. Even a minor dent can cause deterioration of the protective coating and present a potential hazard in the future. Be safe instead of sorry and let us know.

### Uh-oh... I dug into a pipeline.

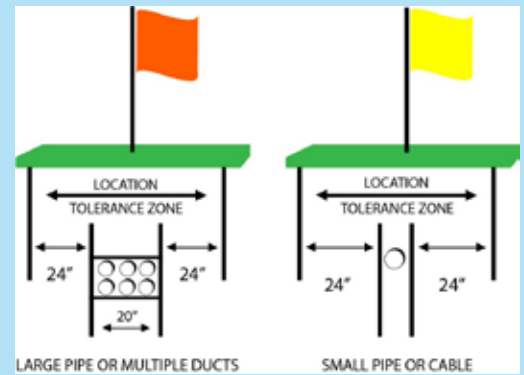
That is immediate cause for concern... for your safety and the safety of others around you. Carefully leave on foot and clear other people from the area. Gas is combustible so don't cause any friction that could create a spark, including using your phone near the gas leak. Move to a safe location upwind and away from the leak then **call 911** and us at **1-866-201-1001**. Do NOT start an engine, or drive near the area of a leak. Do NOT attempt to operate gas valves or extinguish burning gas. Needless to say, do NOT light a cigarette or allow anyone to smoke in the area of the leak.



**YCNGA 24-Hour Emergency: 866-201-1001**

## Digging Safely Checklist

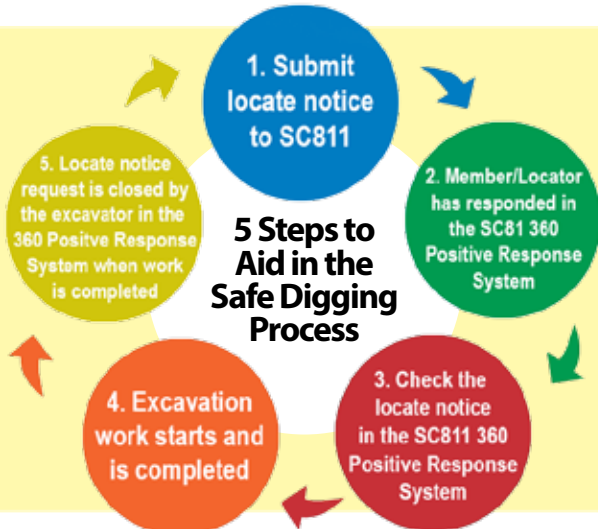
- ✓ Pre-mark your excavation site with white paint, flags or stakes.
- ✓ Contact SC811 3-full business days before digging.
- ✓ Confirm locates have been completed by checking Positive Response 360.
- ✓ Hand dig to expose underground pipelines and facilities within the 24" tolerance zone.
- ✓ Report any contact with pipes including nicks, dents, gouges, cuts, scrapes or scratches so proper repairs may be made. Failure to notify the company of these damages could result in future corrosion and/or pipe failure. Call the utility in your location area.



## 811 Notice Calendar

South Carolina 811		NOTICE CALENDER					
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
	Locate called in	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Good to excavate		
		Locate called in	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Good to excavate	
			Locate called in	Day 1	Day 2	Weekends & Holidays are excluded	
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## 5 Steps to Aid in the Safe Digging Process

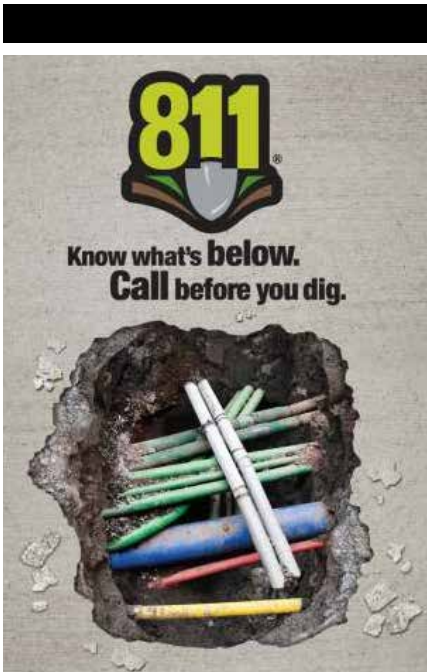


## Verify Using 360 Positive Response









811 does not locate utilities — they coordinate with the utilities and their contracted locating services to have the area located. It is the responsibility of the EXCAVATOR to verify that locates have been completed and are correct.

Use the Positive Response System at SC811.com to confirm locators have marked the utilities at your excavation site.

SC811 Requirement: Positive Response mandatory as of 6/7/15  
For more information go to <http://sc811.com/apps/positive-response>



### Utility Color Code Chart

-  Proposed Excavation
-  Temporary Survey
-  Electric
-  Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum
-  Communication, Telephone, TV
-  Potable Water
-  Reclaimed Water, Irrigation
-  Sewer, Drain Lines

### SC811 for Excavators

<http://sc811.com/resources/excavator>

### SC811 Excavator Manual

Download and/or order copies at <http://sc811.com/excavator-manual>

### Download the SC811 App

Quickly and easily enter a locate notice or check Positive Response for the status of your request. You can even enter a damage report, review the excavator manual and watch videos from the SC811 Academy Training portal.



Available for both Android and Apple.

Go to your app store or go online to: <http://sc811.com/apps/mobile-app>



### Important Numbers to Know

York County Natural Gas	Emergency Phone Line	<b>866.201.1001</b>
York County Natural Gas	Non-Emergency Phone Line	<b>803.323.5304</b>
Patriots Energy Group	Emergency Phone Line	<b>888.609.9858</b>
Chester County Natural Gas	Non-Emergency Phone Line	<b>803.385.3157</b>
Lancaster County Natural Gas	Non-Emergency Phone Line	<b>803.285.2045</b>

### How to get more information - Useful Links

York County Natural Gas	<a href="http://www.ycnga.com">www.ycnga.com</a>
Patriots Energy Group	<a href="http://www.patriotsenergy.com">www.patriotsenergy.com</a>
Chester County Natural Gas	<a href="http://www.chestergas.com">www.chestergas.com</a>
Lancaster County Natural Gas	<a href="http://www.lcngasc.com">www.lcngasc.com</a>
SC811	<a href="http://www.sc811.com">www.sc811.com</a>
National Pipeline Mapping System	<a href="http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov">www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov</a>
USDOT Pipeline Safety	<a href="http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/Excavators.htm">primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/Excavators.htm</a>

