



# THE excavator e-news

fall 2016

BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER FOR EXCAVATORS



## Blasting Safety & Pipelines



On occasion, blasting activities are necessary to aid utility, road-way, or other types of construction. With the hard rock located in various areas of the upstate of South Carolina sometimes blasting is the only way to facilitate construction activities. It is critically important prior to any blasting, that a one-call notification to SC811 be made so that utilities can mark their lines.

Natural gas utilities are required by federal pipeline safety regulations to conduct leak surveys using combustible gas indicators. When notified of planned blasting projects, York County Natural Gas Authority will conduct a leak survey before the activity and after completion to ensure that no natural gas leaks exist.

The importance of notification of pending blasting activities to SC811 cannot be overstated. Obviously, blasting in close proximity to natural gas pipelines can result in immediate damage and failure of the system. However, while not as substantial, there is a risk to pipelines in proximity but not in the immediate area of blasting activity as well. Shock waves from blasting can cause damage some distance from the origin. Utility notification in advance of these activities can greatly minimize risk and enhance safety.

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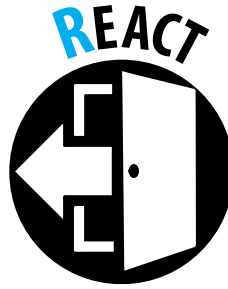
### Report ANY Contact with Pipeline

The primary cause of pipeline damage is excavation. If you believe you may have hit or nicked a natural gas line, or even come in contact with the marker tape, call York County Natural Gas right away at 866-201-1001. A minor dent or nick can cause corrosion or deterioration of the protective coating and present a potential hazard in the future.

# 3 R's of Natural Gas

We're all familiar with the three R's of education and their importance to lifelong learning and success.

The principle is the same when it comes to natural gas safety. Knowing how to recognize, react and report natural gas emergencies can help keep you safe.



*Signs of a natural gas leak may include:*

- **ROTTEN EGG** smell
  - **BLOWING** or hissing sound
  - **DEAD OR DISCOLORED VEGETATION** in an otherwise green area
  - **DIRT OR DUST BLOWING** from a hole in the ground
  - **BUBBLING** in wet or flooded areas
  - **FLAMES**, if a leak has ignited
- **LEAVE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY**, without using anything that could create a spark and ignite the gas, including your cell phone.
  - **DO NOT** use electrical devices, such as light switches, telephones/cell phones, garage door openers.
  - **DO NOT** use an open flame, matches or lighters.
  - **DO NOT** try to locate the source of the leak.
  - **DO NOT** try to shut off any natural gas valves or gas appliances — leave that to the experts.
  - **DO NOT** start or move vehicles.
  - **DO NOT** re-enter a building or return to the area of the suspected leak until our employees have said it is safe to do so.
- Go to a **SAFE LOCATION** away from the suspected leak.
  - Then call 9-1-1 and York County Natural Gas toll-free at **866-201-1001**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Also, call us if you see unusual activity near a natural gas pipeline or facility. We respond to reports at no charge.



## Digging without your OWN Ticket

*You may ask yourself... If I am a sub-contractor, do I have to get my own ticket or can I work under the general contractor's locate ticket?*

According to SC811, it is recommended that all excavators request their own locate notices. All sub-contractors can and should be listed in the remarks section of the notice.

### **According to the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) Best Practice Committee:**

Every excavator on the job has a separate one call reference number before excavating. There are often several excavators on a job site performing work. The construction schedule may dictate different types of work requiring excavation from different specialty contractors simultaneously. In these situations, it is imperative for each excavator to obtain a one call reference number before excavation to ensure that the specific areas have been appropriately marked by any affected underground facility owner/operator.

During damage investigations for YCNGA facilities, sub-contractors who are not listed on the ticket for the work being performed are considered as *not* having a locate notice. We are asking all excavators to consider the CGA best practice in order to ensure all excavations are properly marked. Don't put yourself or your workers in the DANGER ZONE.

**Call 811 and request a locate before digging.**



# Top 10 Locate Mistakes

(FROM THE SC811 2016 EXCAVATOR MANUAL)

## 1) Requesting too many addresses to be marked

You can enter up to 5 addresses on one locate notice, but the addresses must be side by side on the same side of the road.

## 2) A different location in the address field than requested instructions

The information provided in the instructions of the locate notice should reflect the address or street name provided in the address field of the locate notice.

## 3) Web notice does not contain enough information to be able to map

Providing 2 additional cross streets and directions to the site will help the CSR locate the site on the map as well as help the locators in the field.

## 4) When a "No Show" locate is called in the caller doesn't know who has or has not marked

Prior to calling in a "No Show" find out what color markings are on the ground, if any, by going to the site. It is also helpful to try to find out if any of the lines may be aerial.



## 5) Know the county the work is taking place in — it is a required field

Prior to calling in your locate notice, know the county where the work is taking place so your locate notice can be processed in a timely manner. For a list of counties, visit this link: <http://www.sc811.com/member-list/>

## 6) Entering normal notice request with improper "instructions"

Only normal and update locate notices may be entered using the web portal. Should any other type of notice be needed then dial 811 and an email copy can be sent to you.

## 7) Wanting to add additional marking instructions without processing a new locate notice

Anytime the area that needs marking instructions changes, a new locate notice will need to be called in. Once a locate number has been given the marking instructions cannot be changed.

## 8) Requesting locate notice to be updated too early

This type of request is used when an existing locate notice needs to be extended for more digging time on the 12th full working day of the locate notice which is termed as "updating on time". This action will re-calculate a new 3 full working day notice and extend it for an additional 15 full working days with no lapse in coverage. Please keep in mind that a locate notice should never be updated more than 3 full days prior to the update date.

## 9) Timeline to input tickets no hold time to get information

If caller can't provide the required information to get the locate notice processed in a timely manner, the locate notice will need to be suspended and the caller asked to call back once they get the required information needed to complete the locate notice. Keep in mind the caller must call back by the close of business or the information will no longer be suspended.

## 10) Trying to update an emergency notice

An emergency locate notice is not updated; a new normal notice locate will be entered.





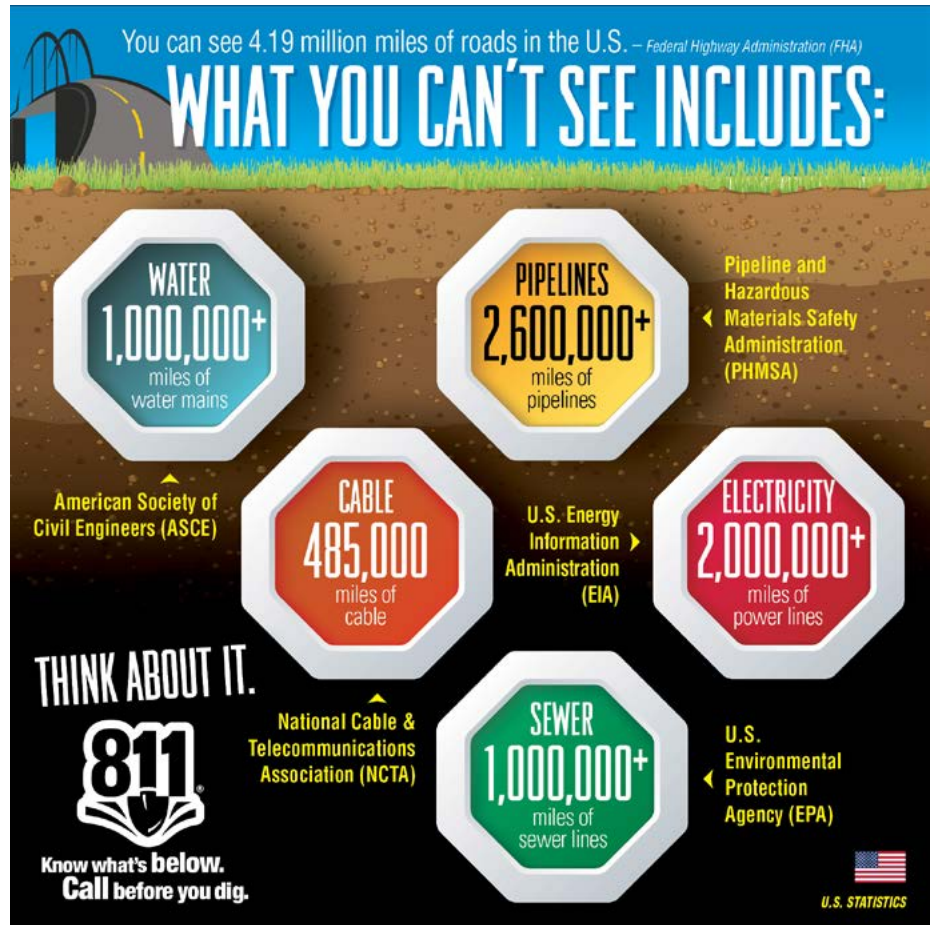
# What is a Right of Way?

Although typically buried underground, pipelines may also be found above ground at bridge crossings, pump and compressor stations, some valve stations and terminals. Whether above ground or below ground, pipelines are constructed along a clear corridor of land called the right-of-way (ROW). The ROW may contain one or more pipelines, vary in width or cross through public and private property. The ROW should be free of permanent structures and trees and be identified with a marker sign.

Right-of-way markers along a pipeline route or at a grade crossing only show the approximate location of a pipeline. The right-of-way itself is likely much wider than the pipeline. Thus, the markers are not always located precisely over a line, nor do the markers indicate the depth of the line.

A pipeline may curve or make an angle underground as it runs between markers in order to avoid some natural or man-made feature such as a historical site or another underground facility.

Using the SC811 One-Call system when digging around a natural gas pipeline, or any other underground feature, is the only way to determine the true location of a pipeline. Even after the area has been marked, any digging around the marks should be carefully conducted to precisely locate the facility.



**GO ONLINE**  
sc811.com

**DOWNLOAD**  
mobile app

**VIA MOBILE**  
888 721-7877

**ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG... IT'S THE LAW**

## 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	24-Hour Phone Line	<b>866.201.1001</b>
York County Natural Gas	Non-Emergency Phone Line	<b>803.323.5304</b>
Patriots Energy Group	24-Hour Phone Line	<b>888.609.9858</b>
Chester County Natural Gas	24-Hour Phone Line	<b>803.385.3157</b>
Lancaster County Natural Gas	24-Hour 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>

