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## Digging Safely

Digging-related activity is the leading cause of natural gas pipeline incidents.

A ruptured natural gas line will have immediate consequences. Furthermore, if you disturb, nick, chip, scratch, or dent a pipeline, or its coating, the resulting damage could serve as a catalyst for a natural gas accident days, weeks, or even years afterwards.

If you suspect that a buried or above ground natural gas pipeline has been damaged, even slightly, immediately leave the area and warn others to stay away. From a safe location, immediately call 911 and the appropriate natural gas utility.

To avoid a costly repair bill and, far more important, keep yourself and other safe:

- Notify the local One Call center by calling the toll-free, nationwide “Call Before You Dig” number (811) at least two full business days before you dig. This free service will notify all of the utilities in your area of your plans.
- Pre-mark the excavation area using white paint or flags to assist the location services.
- Within two business days, representatives from utilities will arrive at your site to mark buried utilities with the corresponding paint color and identification flags.
- After the area has been properly marked, dig with care! Utility lines cannot be exactly pinpointed and the depth cannot be precisely determined.
- If the original markings are unclear, disturbed, or seven days have passed, call to have the locations remarked, at no cost to you, at least two business days before work begins.