

# ELECTRICAL GROUNDING SAFETY

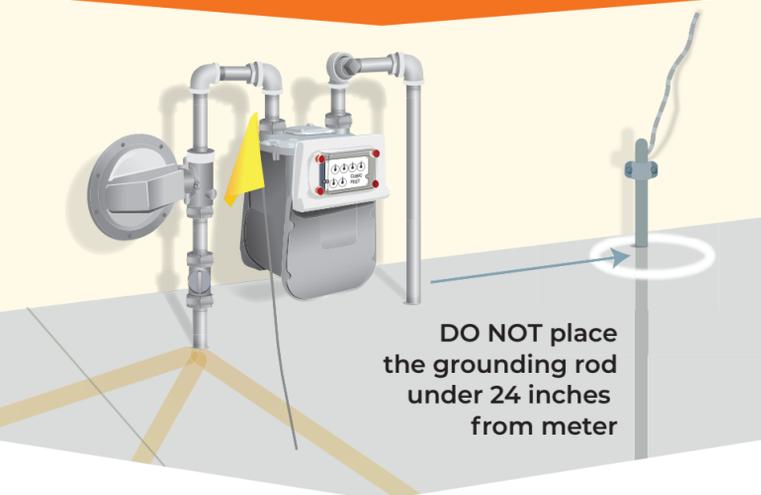
WHILE WORKING NEAR NATURAL GAS PIPELINES



**BREAK GROUND, NOT THE LAW.  
CONTACT 811 BEFORE YOU DIG.**

## UNDERGROUND PIPES COULD BE RUNNING ANY DIRECTION

from a neighboring building or from the street



## HIDDEN SAFETY HAZARDS WHEN GROUNDING ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

811 must be contacted to locate and mark underground utility lines to prevent damage and other serious injuries when driving a metallic rod into the earth to create a new grounding point.

During the electrical grounding process, a wire is connected to a dedicated metal rod or pipe that has been driven into the earth to provide proper grounding.

Grounding to natural gas pipes, meters or services is prohibited according to the **California Electrical Code, Article 250**. Under certain circumstances grounding can energize the natural gas pipe with a dangerous electrical current that can lead to electrical shock injuries. It can also accelerate metal loss from the steel parts which may result in hazardous leaks.

You should never ground your solar system, or any other electrical equipment, to gas meters, pipes or valves.

Grounding, digging, and excavating near buried pipelines are major causes of pipeline damage, which can result in injury, costly repairs, gas service disruptions and project delays. Regardless of the size or scope of the work you're planning, protect yourself, your employees, and the community by having the pipeline locations marked using simple safety steps:



**MARK OUT** your proposed project area in white paint or provide other suitable markings.



**CONTACT 811** Underground Service Alert (USA) at [california811.org](http://california811.org) or dial **811**, to submit a location request at least two business days before digging. SoCalGas will be contacted, as well as other local utility owners, to mark the location of all utility-owned lines for **FREE**.



**WAIT TO DIG** until we either mark our natural gas pipelines or you are advised that the area is clear.



**CONFIRM\*\*** utilities have marked the proposed work area. Natural gas is indicated in yellow. If no natural gas pipelines are in your work area you may get a call, email, or see writing on the ground that indicates "no conflict" or "no natural gas."



**USE ONLY HAND TOOLS** within 24 inches on each side of marked utility lines to carefully expose the exact locations of all lines.

*SoCalGas does not mark customer-owned natural gas lines, which typically run from the meter to the customer's natural gas equipment. To have customer-owned lines located and marked before a project, contact a qualified pipe-locating professional.*

**\*\*** Utilities are required by law to use Electronic Positive Response (EPR) system to provide the status of 811 requests and confirm areas have been marked or cleared for digging. Visit [California811.org](http://California811.org) to check comments and confirm area has been marked or cleared.

## MAJOR CONSEQUENCES FOR DAMAGING PIPELINES

- **FATALITIES OR SERIOUS INJURIES**
- **STOP THE JOB** - Project delays
- **HEAVY FINES** - Notifying Underground Service Alert prior to excavation is required by California law. Failure to comply could result in heavy fines.
- **REPAIR COSTS** - You could be charged for the cost to repair the damages.

To report a pipeline emergency, call 911 and SoCalGas at **1-800-427-2200**



**USE ONLY HAND TOOLS WITHIN 24 INCHES** on each side of marked utility lines to carefully expose the exact location of all lines.



## PIPELINE MARKINGS & WHAT THEY MEAN



Red:	Electric
Yellow:	Natural Gas, oil, steam
Orange:	Communications
Blue:	Water
Purple:	Reclaimed water
Green:	Sewer
Pink:	Temporary markings
White:	Proposed excavation

High-visibility markers, like this, identify the general location of major pipeline routes. Contact **811** for accurate pipeline location markings.



## RECOGNIZE A NATURAL GAS LEAK

Be alert to any of the signs you may see, hear or smell when there is a leak.



### LOOK

If you see a damaged connection to a natural gas appliance, dirt/water blowing into the air, a dry patch of grass, fire or an explosion near a pipeline.



### LISTEN

If you hear unusual sounds like hissing or whistling.



### SMELL

If you smell the distinctive odor\* of gas.

\* Some persons may not be able to smell the odor because they have a diminished sense of smell, olfactory fatigue (normal, temporary inability to distinguish an odor after prolonged exposure to it), a temporary loss of smell due to COVID-19, or because the odor is being masked or hidden by other odors that are present, such as cooking, damp, musty or chemical odors. In addition, certain pipeline and soil conditions can cause odor fade (the loss of odorant so that it is not detectable by smell).

## IF YOU SMELL GAS OR SUSPECT A LEAK



**IMMEDIATELY EVACUATE THE AREA.**

**CALL SOCALGAS** at **1-800-427-2200** from a safe location.

**CALL 911** promptly, from a safe location, if there is damage resulting in a natural gas leak that may endanger life, cause bodily harm or property damage.

**DO NOT** smoke or light a match, candle or create any other flame.

**DO NOT** turn electrical appliances or lights on or off, operate motorized equipment or vehicles, or use any device that could cause a spark.

**DO NOT** attempt to control the leak or repair a damaged pipe or meter. Natural gas leaking from a plastic pipe can create static electricity that can ignite the natural gas.

**REPORT** any pipeline damage by calling SoCalGas immediately at 1-800-427-2200. Even a slight gouge, scrape or dent to a pipeline may harm the integrity of the pipe or cause a dangerous leak in the future.



## PROVIDE CLEAR ACCESS TO PIPELINES

To keep our communities safe, we must be able to access our pipeline right-of-way to perform important safety inspections and respond to pipeline emergencies. Our pipeline right-of-way must be clear of obstructions such as shrubs, trees, fences and other structures.

## LOCATE PIPELINES NEAR YOU

Most pipelines are buried underground. Pipeline markers identify the approximate locations of major pipelines and include our emergency number. Markers do not indicate the depth or number of pipelines in the area. You can view the approximate locations of major natural gas pipelines at [socalgas.com/Map](https://socalgas.com/Map) or on the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) website at [npms.phmsa.dot.gov](https://npms.phmsa.dot.gov). These maps only indicate the general location of pipelines and should never be used as a substitute for contacting **811** at least two business days before digging.

## PIPELINE INTEGRITY

SoCalGas transports natural gas safely through underground pipelines to our residential customers for cooking and heating and to commercial and industrial customers for manufacturing products and generating electricity. We monitor natural gas for quality and add a distinctive odor to aid in the detection of leaks. SoCalGas operates underground natural gas pipelines in areas where you or your company may dig or excavate.

We routinely perform pipeline safety tasks, including patrolling, testing, repairing and replacing pipelines. In order to perform these tasks, we must be able to access the pipeline right-of-way. Please keep the area above pipelines accessible.



**SoCalGas**<sup>TM</sup>

To report a pipeline emergency, call **911** and SoCalGas at **1-800-427-2200**.

For additional safety information, visit [socalgas.com/811](https://socalgas.com/811).