



**Get Connected and Protected – for FREE!**

Just make one quick call to 811. Homeowners, contractors, excavators – whoever is digging – must call this easy-to-remember, nationwide number at least three business days prior to any digging to get the public underground utility lines marked.

Never make assumptions about whether or not to call 811 – every digging job requires a call. Take a look at this partial list and call before you:

- Install a mailbox post*
- Plant a tree, shrubs, bushes or a lawn*
- Install a sprinkler system*
- Put in a walkway*
- Build a patio or deck*
- Install a fence*
- Dig a pond*
- Pour concrete*

The depth of utility lines varies and often there are multiple lines in a common area. Digging without calling 811 can potentially disrupt service to your entire neighborhood, cause injuries and even harm the environment, at times resulting in fines and repair costs.

Call 811 before you dig. It's EASY, it's FREE and it's the LAW!



## It Smells Bad for a Good Reason!

Used properly, natural gas is safe and reliable. However, leaking natural gas can signal potential danger. An odorant that smells like rotten eggs is added to natural gas to help you detect possible leaks. If you smell this odor:

- **Remove any cigarettes or other smoking materials from the area, and then extinguish them.**
- **Do NOT use matches, lighters or other open flames or activate light switches, electrical appliances, flashlights, doorbells or even garage door openers, as they could create a spark.**
- **Do NOT use telephones (cellular or cordless included) on the premises where the leak is suspected. Phones can create a spark.**
- **Evacuate everyone from the building immediately and then call NJNG from a safe location at 800-GAS-LEAK (427-5325) to report the problem. Let us know where you are.**
- **Do NOT re-enter the building until NJNG has declared it to be safe.**

For your safety, we promptly investigate suspected natural gas leaks as a FREE service, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## Recognizing a Natural Gas Leak

- Smell** – The distinctive odor of rotten eggs (You may not smell the odor if you have a diminished sense of smell, the odor is masked by other scents or it has faded.)
- Look** – Discolored or dead vegetation; a dense mist above the pipeline or disturbed soil above it
- Listen** – A loud and high-pitched sound
- Act** – If you suspect a natural gas leak, leave the area immediately and call 800-GAS-LEAK (427-5325).

## Save Energy and Money with an Annual Natural Gas Equipment Safety Checkup

Have your natural gas equipment serviced annually by a qualified technician to help keep them running safely. If you suspect a problem, call a trained professional. You also save energy and money when your equipment is operating at peak efficiency. Throughout the year make sure to:

**Check the Flame** – Natural gas appliances should have a clear, steady blue flame. Small amounts of yellow and orange are also normal.

**Use Appliances Only for Their Intended Purposes** – Never use your oven or range for home heating. Natural gas fireplaces and space heaters are meant for added warmth, not as a main source of heating. Always turn appliances off before you go to bed or leave the premises.

**Clear the Area** – Keep the area around your furnace and water heater clear to allow air flow and easy access. Make sure vents and chimneys are unblocked. Never store flammable materials near your equipment or appliances as even a small flame, such as a pilot light, can ignite invisible vapors from these materials.

**Protect Against Corrosion** – Chemicals found in fabric and water softeners, bleach, adhesives and ice melting salt can corrode a furnace. Store all these items in a separate location.

**Turn Down the Temperature** – Hot water can cause serious burns. To be safe, lower your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees or less. (You'll also save money on your water heating bills.)

**Keep it Clean** – Change the filter on your furnace and/ or air conditioning system regularly. A dirty or clogged filter could result in more energy use and higher bills.



Safety is a shared responsibility. Our Partners in Safety team works directly with municipalities, emergency responders and contractors to provide FREE safety training to ensure we all live and work safely with natural gas. We also offer FREE Speakers' Bureau presentations for your organization or classroom. Topics include natural gas safety, energy conservation, energy assistance and more. Call today to book your FREE training or presentation!

**Partners in Safety:** 732-378-4965  
safetyawareness@njng.com

**Speakers' Bureau:** 732-938-1035  
speakers@njng.com

## What's the Difference?

**Transmission Line** – Wide diameter, long distance pipelines used to transport large volumes of natural gas from the principal supply area to distribution centers

**Mains** – A network of pipes within a distribution company's (NJNG) service area, transporting natural gas to customer service lines

**Service Line** – A pipe carrying natural gas from a main to the customer's meter

## Damaged or Disturbed Pipeline?

Even minor damage to a pipeline should be reported right away to 800-GAS-LEAK (427-5325). A gouge, scrape or dent to the pipe or its coating may cause failure of the pipeline in the future. If a pipeline or service line is leaking, call 911 immediately. Never attempt to make repairs to the line yourself.