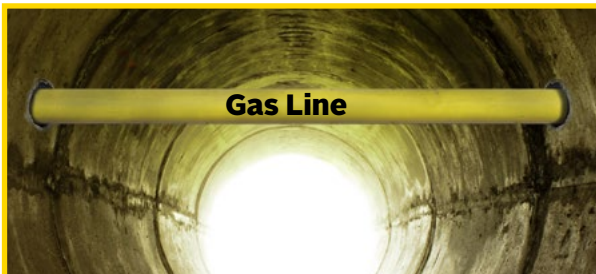




Pipeline Press



Fall 2023



Natural Gas Piping and Unmarked Sewer Line Safeguards

It is a common practice for utility companies to install their underground lines using trenchless technologies. This process minimizes ground disturbance, an inconvenience to residents.

However, unmarked sewer lines present the potential to inadvertently install other utilities, such as natural gas lines through. If the sewer line gets clogged and equipment is used to unclog the blockage, safety hazards can occur. If your sewer line appears to be blocked, do not attempt to unblock it yourself. Before doing any work, contact your plumber and have them call NJNG at 800-221-0051 and say “sewer.”

If you smell a natural gas odor (like that of rotten eggs), leave the premises immediately and call 911 and NJNG at 800-GAS-LEAK (427-5325) from a safe location. 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.



About Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Markers

Make a note of this important information if a transmission pipeline marker is on or near your property. To get a general sense of where a pipeline is located, please visit the National Pipeline Mapping System at pvnpm.phmsa.dot.gov.

- Most pipelines are buried underground.
- Yellow markers indicate pipeline presence, not exact location.
- Markers include a 24-hour emergency phone number: 800-GAS-LEAK (427-5325).
- Markers do not indicate pipeline depth or how many pipelines are in the area.
 - Always call 811 BEFORE you dig.

If you notice a pipeline marker has been tampered with, please call 800-221-0051.

When to Call ...

811	911
Used nationwide to coordinate markouts of underground facilities.	Used nationwide for emergency services.
811 connects you to the New Jersey One Call Center for a FREE markout – available 24/7.	Call 911 if you suspect a natural gas leak. Then call NJNG at 800-GAS-LEAK (427-5325).
Call three business days before starting ANY digging project.	Call if you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning.

Winter Meter Safety

This winter, don't forget about your natural gas meter.

Keep your meter and the area around it free of snow, ice, debris and other obstructions that could cause corrosion and a possible natural gas leak.

For sidewall-vented appliances such as direct vent furnaces, fireplaces and tankless water heaters, do not allow the outside vent terminal to be blocked or obstructed by ice, snow, vegetation or any other material.

Gently remove snow from your meter using a broom.

Carefully remove any ice hanging over your meter.

Do not use sharp tools or instruments on or near the meter.

Never tie anything to a meter or its piping. This includes a dog leash, guy wires and ground wires.



NJNG employees must have easy, safe access to your meter in case of an emergency. If you believe your natural gas meter is in an unsafe location, such as too close to a driveway or under a deck, call us at 800-221-0051 and say "meter" at the voice prompt.

Pipeline ROW FAQs

A right-of-way, or ROW, is a strip of land over a natural gas pipeline.

What if a ROW is on or near my property?

The ROW must remain free of structures or barriers so NJNG employees can freely access the ROW at all times. Fenced areas must have a gated entrance. Prior to doing ANY work in the ROW, you must contact NJNG at 732-919-8021.

What does NJNG do with the ROW?

NJNG maintains the ROW to ensure the safety of the pipeline. NJNG crews regularly patrol the area to look for damage or activity by excavators and conduct routine maintenance and leak detection surveys. Crews also clear debris, mow and remove trees when necessary.

What is an easement?

An easement is an agreement between NJNG and the property owner, which provides NJNG with permanent, limited interest in the land to ensure the safety of its pipeline facilities.

Tampering with Natural Gas Meters and Pipelines Endangers Life and Property

It is a federal crime to willfully deface, damage, remove or destroy a pipeline marker or pipeline facilities. This unlawful act may lead to discontinuance of service or criminal prosecution; and you could cause injury to our employees or yourself. Please report any suspicious activity immediately to 800-221-0051 or to our confidential theft-of-service hotline at 800-631-6041.

Damaged or Disturbed Pipeline?

Used properly, natural gas is a safe, reliable and efficient fuel. However, 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.