

Austell Gas System at WORK FOR YOU

Over the past 22 years, risk exposure has been rising through increased populations, energy consumption and pipeline miles. At the same time, the number of serious pipeline incidents involving death or injury has declined by 50%.

Main gas lines, typically 2-inch in diameter, branch into household service lines which are typically half-inch to three-quarter-inch in diameter and buried 12- to 18-inches below the surface. The service lines end at each customer's meter where gas is delivered.

Here are five easy steps to damage prevention:

1. Survey and Mark – Survey the proposed excavation area and mark the dig sites in white paint.
2. Call Before You Dig – 48 hours prior to digging, call 811 and get free staking of underground utility lines which helps reduce the chance of injury and unneeded expense. It is a law in Georgia.
3. Wait! Wait the required time to allow utility owners to locate and mark the lines.
4. Respect the Marks! Maintain visibility of the marks and safely follow them when digging.
5. Dig – Dig with care. Hand excavate within 18-inches of each side of the locate marks. If you plan to dig anywhere near a marked area especially when using mechanized equipment – use a shovel and carefully hand dig to expose the lines.

This message was brought to you by **Austell Gas System** as part of our Public Awareness Program. For additional information regarding this message, call **(770) 948-1841 ext. 3141**



Austell Gas System
2838 Joe Jerkins Blvd
Austell, Ga. 30106
(770) 948-1841
www.austellgas.com



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(770) 948-1841



Responding to A Natural Gas Emergency

Important
Information
For
Emergency
Responders
And
Public Officials

Natural gas, America's most popular home heating fuel, is increasingly popular for use by homeowners, schools, businesses, factories and electric power-generation plants because it is efficient, clean, reliable and a relative bargain compared to alternative energy sources.



RECOGNIZING A GAS LEAK

Access the need to evacuate the area including homes, businesses, schools, churches and other facilities. Knowing the signs of a natural gas emergency will help you react quickly and safely.

Signs of a natural gas leak;

- Rotten egg smell
- Bubbles in wet or flooded areas
- Flames, if a leak has ignited
- Hissing or blowing sound from pipeline, storage tank or appliance.
- Dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area.
- Dirt or dust blowing from the ground

BE SAFE – FIRST RESPONDERS

If you smell gas, or suspect a gas leak...

Notify **Austell Gas System (770) 948-1841 Option 1**

DO NOT attempt to stop or plug the leak. This may cause a spark & ignition that could result in injury or death. Only trained utility employees should take action to stop the flow of gas from damaged gas pipelines.

DO NOT cover a damaged pipeline with dirt in an attempt to stop the leak.

DO NOT attempt to put out a gas fire if ignition occurs. If the fire is not posing a danger to life or property, let the fire burn.

DO NOT turn off vehicles or equipment or use a device like a cell phone, without leaving the area first.

- If a leak has been detected, secure the area around the leak with barricades and other control devices.
- Determine if the leak has caught fire. If it has, try to prevent the spread but DO NOT attempt to extinguish the fire.
- If the leak isn't burning, DO NOT allow smoking in the area.
- Direct all traffic away from the area.
- Access the need to evacuate the area including homes, businesses, schools, churches and other facilities

**IF YOU ARE A PUBLIC OFFICIAL OR
EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDER;**

Be Safe. Be Smart. Be Responsible.

BE SMART – FIRST RESPONDERS

Know where the pipelines are. As an emergency responder you have access to the National Pipeline Mapping system (NPMS) that shows the location of inter and intrastate gas pipelines, plants and other facilities throughout Georgia.



PIPELINE MARKERS

Underground pipelines are identified with markers placed above ground. These markers do not indicate the exact location or the depth which may vary greatly.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**