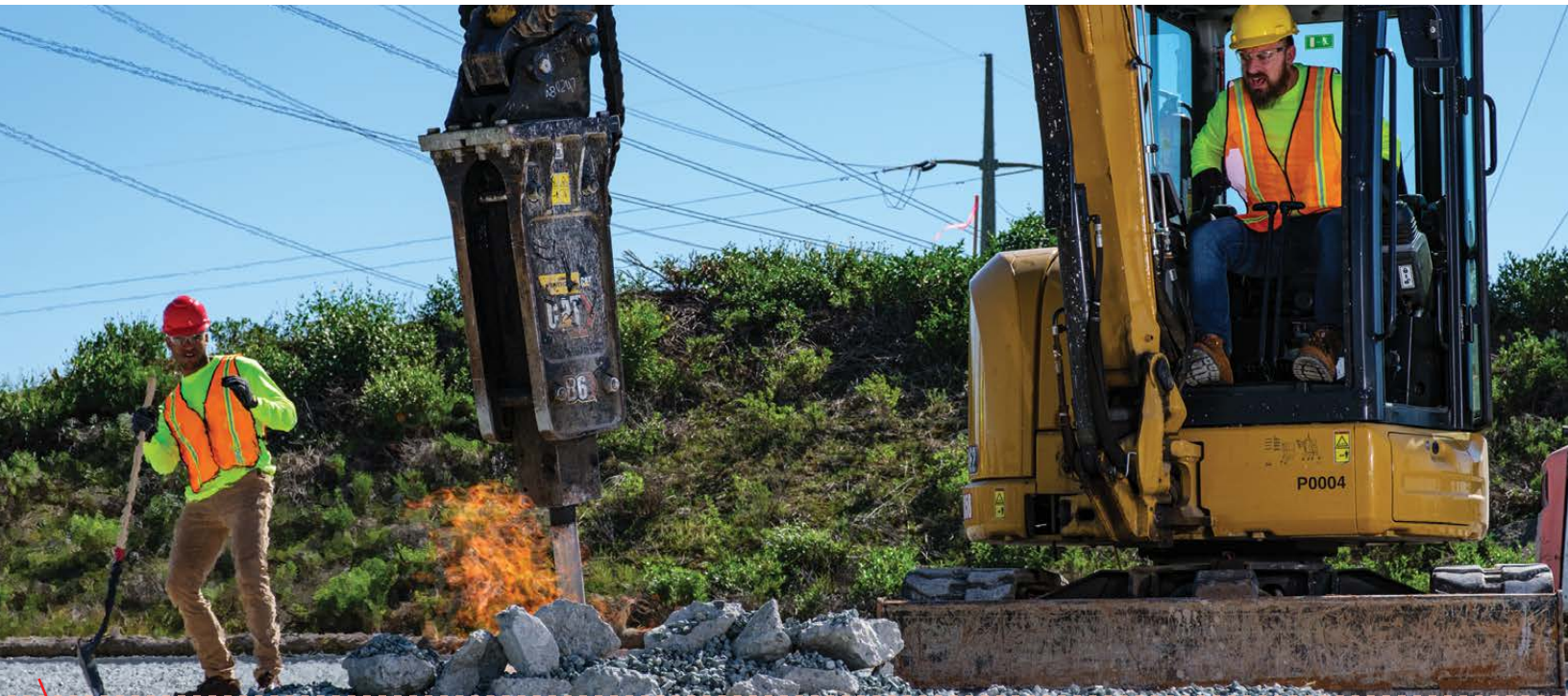


Excavation safety

A guide to safe digging around underground utilities



Contact 811 before you dig

Digging or demolition near underground pipelines can lead to serious bodily harm, project delays and financial consequences, such as heavy fines that may exceed \$50,000. Contacting **811** prior to excavation is required by California State Law.

Even a slight gouge, scrape or dent to a pipeline, electric line or their coating may eventually cause a dangerous break or leak. That's why it's important to know where pipelines and electric lines are buried before you begin any type of digging. Regardless of the size and scope of the work you're planning, keep yourself and those around you safe by following these important steps:



IT'S A FREE SERVICE

- **MARK** out your proposed excavation area in white paint or provide other suitable markings.
- **CONTACT** DigAlert at least two working days before digging at **811** or submit a location request at digalert.org. SDG&E® as well as other local utilities, will mark the location of all utility-owned lines free of charge.
- **WAIT** to allow the utilities two working days to mark utility-owned gas and electric lines (and indicate material and diameter) or to advise you the area is clear of their lines before you dig.
- **CONFIRM** utilities have marked the proposed work area – yellow for natural gas; red for electricity. If no buried utilities are in your work area, you may get a call, email or see written on the ground: "no conflict," or "no natural gas" or "no electricity."
- **USE ONLY HAND TOOLS** within at least 24 inches of each marked utility line to carefully expose the exact locations of all lines before using any power excavation equipment in the area.

Watch for pipeline signs

Most natural gas pipelines are buried underground. During the course of your work, you might encounter SDG&E pipeline markers. Major pipeline routes are marked above ground using high-visibility markers with our name and phone number. These markers indicate only the approximate, not exact, location of pipelines. Markers also do not indicate the depth or number of pipelines in that area.

In addition, maps can be viewed to identify the approximate locations of major gas pipelines in your area. Visit the Gas Transmission and High Pressure Distribution Pipeline Interactive Map at sdge.com/PipelineMap or the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) website at <https://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov>. These maps only indicate a general location of pipelines and should never be used as a substitute to complying with California State Law, which requires contractors to call **811** at least two working days before digging.



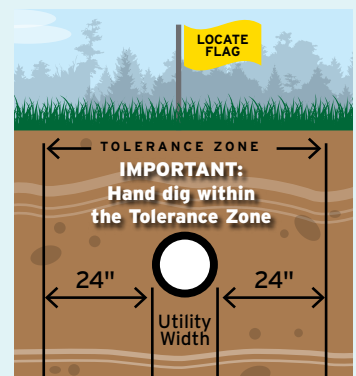
* Please note: the NPMS website takes you to a third-party site, which is not part of sdge.com and does not display the locations of high-pressure gas distribution lines.

High-visibility markers, such as the one above, mark major pipeline routes.

Tolerance Zone

MINIMUM OF 24 INCHES

The tolerance zone is an additional safety buffer for an underground facility, which is at least 24 inches on each side of the marking. However, underground facility operators may have more stringent requirements.



To determine the minimum tolerance zone, please see California Government Code 4216(u).

An excavator must determine the exact location of the facility using hand tools before using any power-driven excavation or boring equipment within the tolerance zone.

If you damage a pipeline or suspect a natural gas leak:



- **IMMEDIATELY and SAFELY EVACUATE** the area and, from a safe location, call SDG&E at **1-800-411-7343**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- **CALL 911** promptly after leaving the area if the damage results in a natural gas leak that may endanger life or cause bodily harm or damage to property.
- **DO NOT** turn electrical devices or light switches on or off; or use any device, including a phone, that could cause a spark.
- **DO NOT** smoke or light a match, candle or other flame.
- **DO NOT** operate machinery, start an engine or use any equipment or vehicles that could cause a spark. Motorized and electrically powered equipment and vehicles may be an ignition source for leaking natural gas. Safely abandon any motorized or powered equipment and vehicles.
- **DO NOT** attempt to control the leak or repair the damaged pipe or meter. Natural gas leaking from plastic pipes can create static electricity that can ignite the natural gas.
- **REPORT** any pipe damage by calling SDG&E immediately at **1-800-411-7343**. No damage is too small to report. Even a slight gouge, scrape or dent to a pipeline, its coating or any component attached to or running alongside the pipe, such as a wire, may cause a dangerous break or leak in the future.

Your safety is important to us

Be aware of underground natural gas pipelines nearby.

You've received this brochure because San Diego Gas & Electric® (SDG&E) operates underground natural gas pipelines in areas where you or people in your company may dig or excavate.



Your safety is important to us. We use advanced safety inspection tools to monitor pipe condition and to verify that the pipelines are being maintained safely. In order to perform these important inspections, the area around our pipelines must be clear of shrubs, trees, fences and other obstructions.

Important contact information

- Call **1-800-411-7343** to report a pipeline emergency.
- Call Underground Service Alert at **811** BEFORE you dig. For more information, visit digalert.org.
- Visit sdge.com/PipelineSafety for more information on pipeline safety.

How to recognize a pipeline leak

It's important to keep in mind that natural gas is flammable and that something as simple as a spark can serve as an ignition source. Be alert to signs you may see, hear or smell when there's a gas leak.

See

- Dirt, water or debris being blown in the air.
- Dead or dying vegetation (in an otherwise moist area) over or near pipeline areas.
- A fire or explosion near a pipeline.
- A damaged connection to a gas appliance.
- Exposed pipeline after an earthquake, fire, flood or other disaster.

Hear

- An unusual sound, such as a hissing, whistling or roaring sound near a gas pipeline or appliance.

Smell

- The distinctive odor* of natural gas.
- * Some people 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) or because the odor is being masked or hidden by other odors that are present, such as damp, musty, chemical or cooking odors. In addition, certain conditions in the pipes and soil can cause odor fade – the loss of odorant so that it is not detectable by smell.

IMPORTANT



If you suspect a gas leak, call SDG&E at **1-800-411-7343** right away from a safe location.

UNDERGROUND UTILITIES COLOR CODE

The following color code is used by utilities for marking excavation sites and underground facilities in conflict with an excavation.

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