



PIPELINE SAFETY INFORMATION

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES 2023-2024

PARTNERS IN
PROTECTING EVERYONE

PIPE

Sponsored by
**Your local distribution and
transmission pipeline operators**

Call before you dig. ...It's the law.

Damage from excavation related activities is one of the leading causes of pipeline incidents.

Call Tennessee 811 72 hours, excluding weekends or holidays, prior to excavation.

Provide site specific information and mark the excavation area in white paint.

Tennessee 811 does not locate underground facility lines - they are a notification service.

Once the lines are located, maintain a safe distance of 24" on either side of the marked facility. Pipeline operators may require additional clearance when working on or near a pipeline right-of-way.

If the excavator has waited the 72 hours excluding weekends and holidays and no lines have been located the excavator must call Tennessee 811 to submit a second notice request.

If you must expose a line, state law requires you to protect and support the existing underground facilities while working on the site. Ask the facility owner's locator for guidance when you are near underground lines.

A locate request is valid for 15 calendar days from the start date and time on the ticket.

Excavation Safety

TCA 65-31-106 requires anyone engaging in, or responsible for, the planning or performance of any type of excavation to call Tennessee 811 at least 3 working days (excluding weekends and holidays) prior to beginning their work.

Mark your excavation area in white paint before calling with a dig notification.

Call 72 hours prior to excavation (excluding weekends and holidays)

By calling, you allow facility owners an opportunity to locate and mark their underground lines in advance of the planned excavation (gas & liquid pipelines will mark underground facility lines using yellow stakes, flags or paint).

Protect and preserve markings until they are no longer required.

Pipeline operators use several methods of monitoring to prevent accidents and detect potentially hazardous situations.

No construction or excavation activities of any kind, including blasting, boring, drilling, or demolition are to be done on any pipeline easement area before the pipeline operator has established the location of all affected facilities and the limits of the easements.



Prevent Damage

Because of the critical nature of liquid and high pressure natural gas pipelines, facility owners want to be on site when construction or excavation is planned near the lines.

When crossing a pipeline with heavy equipment during construction, you may be required to use protective materials that are approved by individual pipeline companies. When construction is complete, the additional protection must be removed.

Please consult with the facility owner or line operator when backfilling, which also includes areas of washout or erosion.

Contact your local pipeline operator for information on high-consequence areas and integrity management programs.

Pipeline markers display the material transported, the name of the pipeline operator and the operator's emergency number.

Pipeline markers, usually yellow, orange, or red, show approximate location of pipelines and do not reveal the exact location, depth or pressure of the line.

Easements must be kept clear and nothing can be built over the pipeline.

Any activity involving crossing the pipeline right of way needs to be coordinated with the pipeline operator. This includes logging activities.

Excavation projects should always begin with notification to Tennessee 811.



Emergency Actions

A gas or petroleum line is hit or damaged and is leaking:

Stop all digging and leave the equipment in place. Evacuate the work area and adjacent structures. Remain upwind at a safe distance.

Call 911 immediately from a safe distance. After speaking to emergency services, notify 811 and the appropriate gas or petroleum company (refer to emergency numbers).

Eliminate potential ignition sources, i.e. open flames, smoking materials, the starting or operating of motor vehicles, the use of phones, radios, doorbells, electric switches, flashlights, etc.

Do not try to extinguish a fire unless there is a direct threat to life.

Do not operate any pipeline valves.

Cordon off the affected area.

Any damage to pipeline infrastructure must be reported to the facility owner, in accordance with State and Federal law. It is unlawful to cover up a line that may be damaged.

A gas or petroleum line is hit or exposed without apparent damage or leakage:

Call the appropriate gas or petroleum company immediately from a safe distance.

Stop excavation activity until the facility owner clears you to proceed.

If vapors are escaping, call 911.

Special Note: damage to a line may not be readily apparent when a line is exposed or hit.





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

5 Steps to Safe Digging:

- 1. Call Before you Dig**
- 2. Wait the Required Time**
- 3. Locate Accurately**
- 4. Respect the Marks**
- 5. Dig with Care**

The excavator must re-notify TN811 for new markings if the facility owner's markings are destroyed or removed before excavation commences.

Important Websites:

www.tn811.com
www.tnpipe.com
www.tn.gov/tpuc
www.phmsa.dot.gov
www.osha.gov
www.pipesafety.org

Download the TN811 App

E-Ticket Entry • Ticket Search
Positive Response • Ticket Portal/
Update Ticket • Handbook • Law • News



Tennessee811



Tennessee811