

Hazards when natural gas is released

- Natural gas mixed with air can be highly flammable and easily ignited by heat or sparks.
- Natural gas can be ignited when there is a 4- to 15-percent gas-to-air mixture.
- Gas fires may produce irritating and/or toxic fumes.
- Natural gas is lighter than air and can migrate into enclosed spaces.
- Released gas will displace oxygen without warning and can cause dizziness or even asphyxiation.

How to respond in a gas emergency

- Avoid any action that may create a spark.
- Do NOT start vehicles, switch lights or use hang-up phones.
- Evacuate the area on foot in an upwind and uphill direction.
- Alert others to evacuate the area and keep people away.
- Call 911 from a safe distance to report the emergency.
- Call and report the event to Avista.
- Wait for emergency responders to arrive.
- Do NOT attempt to close any pipeline valves.

Not all line markers are dig markers

Avista's large natural gas transmission pipelines have aboveground yellow markers (see picture) which display a 24-hour emergency response number. These markers only indicate the general route of transmission lines, not their exact locations. Avista has many other distribution main lines and service lines that generally DO NOT have these markers. To be safe, always call before you dig.

Transmission pipeline maps by county and zip code, including the names of pipeline operators, are available by registering with the National Pipeline Mapping System at www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov.



For additional information

(800) 227-9187

myavista.com/safety

publicsafety@avistacorp.com

Avista Utilities is committed to safety. For additional information, call or visit us online.

Если Вы хотели бы получить информацию о правилах безопасности на русском языке, пожалуйста звоните по телефону (800) 227-9187.

Si desea recibir información en Español acerca de la seguridad, por favor llamar a: (800) 227-9187

For assistance with alternative languages please call (800) 227-9187.

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Excavator Safety near Natural Gas and Electric Lines



We just want
you to be safe.

(800) 227-9187

Know what's below to be safe

It takes a system of underground utilities to bring electricity and natural gas service to your community. Avista regularly maintains our electric and natural gas facilities to ensure safety. Federal and state codes also extensively regulate natural gas pipelines for public safety.



It's the law to call before you begin any digging project

- Call 811 (or visit call811.com) two business days before you dig to have underground utilities marked.
- Use white paint to mark the perimeter of where you intend to dig.
- Wait for all utility lines to be marked before proceeding.
- There will be a 2-foot tolerance zone on either side of the markings.
- Hand dig to expose and determine the exact location before you proceed with excavation.
- Don't move or alter the marks until the underground facilities are exposed.
- Exposed gas pipelines need to be properly supported and protected from damage so they don't break or rupture.
- Use acceptable backfill (such as sand or rock-free dirt) and proper compaction to avoid damage to pipes.
- Stop excavating immediately if you find unmarked gas or electric lines and call 811 (or visit call811.com) to have them marked.
- Never try to fix a damaged natural gas line or restrict the gas flow in any way. Avista needs to inspect the line.

Ground marking identification

Ground markings are in different colors to indicate the locations and types of utility facilities buried below.

ELECTRIC	Locates are good for the following time periods: WA - 45 days ID - 21 days OR - Life of the project
GAS-OIL	
COMMUNICATION	
WATER	
SEWER	
TEMPORARY SURVEY	
IRRIGATION	
PROPOSED EXCAVATION	

Watch out for overhead power lines

- Note where power lines are located before you start a project.
- Remember the 10-foot rule: Never bring a backhoe arm/attachment, ladders, antennas, irrigation pipe, long-handled tools or other equipment within 10 feet of an overhead power line.
- Remember that tools made of wood, fiberglass or other non-metallic materials can still conduct electricity when wet or dirty.
- Keep in mind clearance requirements, especially if you are on top of a building.
- Call Avista ahead of time if you are moving oversized loads on public roadways. We can help you plan a safe trip.
- Do not raise branches, signal lights or wires on your own.
- Avista may be able to shut off electric service while you work. Call us to find out.

Downed lines can be deadly

- Always assume a downed electric line is energized and stay as far back as possible.
- Do not assume phone and cable lines are safe, as they may be in contact with an electric line elsewhere.
- Do not attempt to rescue a co-worker who comes in contact with a line or you could also become a victim.

Vehicles that contact a power line

- Do not panic if the equipment you are operating contacts a line.
- Always assume the line is energized and deadly.
- Stay in the vehicle and warn others to keep away.
- Wait for Avista to arrive and determine if it is safe to exit.
- Never exit earlier unless there is an immediate life-threatening emergency, such as a fire.
 - If forced to exit, never touch the vehicle and ground at the same time.
 - Jump as far as you can away from the equipment and land feet together.
 - Keep your feet together and shuffle or hop away from the site.
- Do not return to the equipment until Avista says it's safe.
- Never attempt to rescue someone else in the same situation.

Signs of a natural gas leak

- Smell** We add a sulfur-like rotten egg stench so you'll know right away if there is a problem.
- Hear** Gas can hiss or even roar as it escapes pipes.
- See** Gas may make bubbles, blow dirt and kill plants when leaking from underground pipes.