

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 Pipelines



We just want
you to be safe.

(800) 227-9187

Know what's below to be safe

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



Locates are good for the following time:

WA - 45 days

ID - 21 days

OR - Life of the project

In WA and ID if anyone digs after the above timeframe, they are digging with an invalid ticket. In OR everyone is required to maintain the locates for the life of the project.

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.

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.