



IF YOU ARE AN EXCAVATOR OR PLAN TO DIG

Excavation, digging or grading are the most frequent causes of pipeline damage and failures. Whether you are building a major development or landscaping your property, you should protect your safety and the safety of those around your work site by notifying the Iowa One Call notification system, call 811 or 1-800-292-8989, at least 48 hours prior to excavating (excluding weekends and holidays).

When notified in advance by the One-Call Center, [Osage Municipal Utilities](#) gas personnel will stake the exact location of the pipeline. This free service allows you to begin your project with the assurance that your safety will not be compromised and our pipeline will not be damaged.

WHAT IF I DIG AND DISTURB A PIPELINE?

If you hit or contact a pipeline in any way, inform [Osage Municipal Utilities](#) immediately at [641-832-3731](#). A gouge, scrape, scratch, dent or crease to a pipe or its coating may cause a future safety problem. It is imperative that [Osage Municipal Utilities](#) inspects and repairs any damage to our pipeline, no matter how minor it may seem.

WHAT SAFETY PROCEDURES SHOULD YOU TAKE?

When it comes to the safety of you or anyone else near a pipeline, it is important to know the procedures you should take when someone has damaged a pipeline or when you suspect a gas leak. If you or anyone else accidentally damages or suspects a gas leak on an [Osage Municipal Utilities](#) pipeline, follow the procedures below:

1. Leave the area immediately and warn others to stay away.
2. If you suspect your excavation equipment has struck a pipeline, do not attempt to move the equipment. Shut the equipment off and leave the area.
3. Once away from the pipeline, call [Osage Municipal Utilities](#) at [641-832-3731](#), as well as calling 911.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



SIGNS OF A NATURAL GAS PIPELINE LEAK

Leaks from a natural gas pipeline are extremely rare. Year after year the National Transportation Safety Board statistics support the industry's safety record. However, it is important to know how to recognize the signs of a leak if one were to occur in your area.

CALL RIGHT AWAY IF YOU:

SEE

- > Vegetation over or near the pipeline which appears to be dead or dying for no apparent reason.
- > Water bubbling at a creek, pond, river or any wet area.
- > Dirt being blown or appearing thrown into the air.
- > Fire or explosion near or involving the pipeline.
- > Exposed pipeline, which may have been caused by a natural disaster, such as flood or earthquake.

HEAR

- > A hissing, whistling or roaring sound.

SMELL

- > Natural gas is usually colorless and odorless; [Osage Municipal Utilities](#) odorizes the gas with an additive to give it a slight "rotten egg" smell.

STEPS YOU SHOULD TAKE IF YOU SUSPECT A GAS LEAK

1. If you suspect a leaking or damaged pipeline, leave the area immediately and warn others to stay away.
2. If you suspect your excavation equipment has struck a pipeline, do not attempt to move the equipment. Shut the equipment off and leave the area.
3. Once away from the pipeline, call [Osage Municipal Utilities](#) at [641-832-3731](#), as well as calling 911. **It's a federal law that if there is escaping gas the excavator has to notify 911 and the gas utility.**
4. **DO NOT** Operate anything that may ignite a gas leak (cellular telephones, lighters, flashlights, vehicle ignition, two-way radios, light switches, garage door openers, etc.)
5. **DO NOT** go near the area. Keep others away from the site.
6. **DO NOT** attempt to shut off any valves or extinguish any fires.



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