



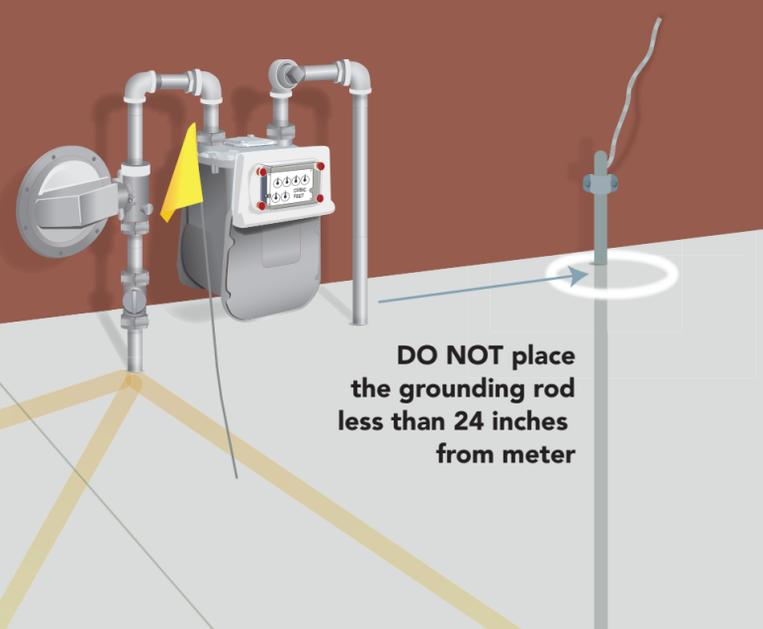
# Electrical Grounding Safety

## While Working Near Natural Gas Pipelines



### Underground Pipes Could Be Running Any Direction

From A Neighboring Building Or From The Street



### Hidden Safety Hazards When Grounding Electrical Equipment

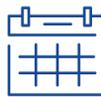
811 must be contacted to locate and mark underground utility lines to help prevent damage and other serious injuries when driving a metallic rod into the earth to create a new grounding point.

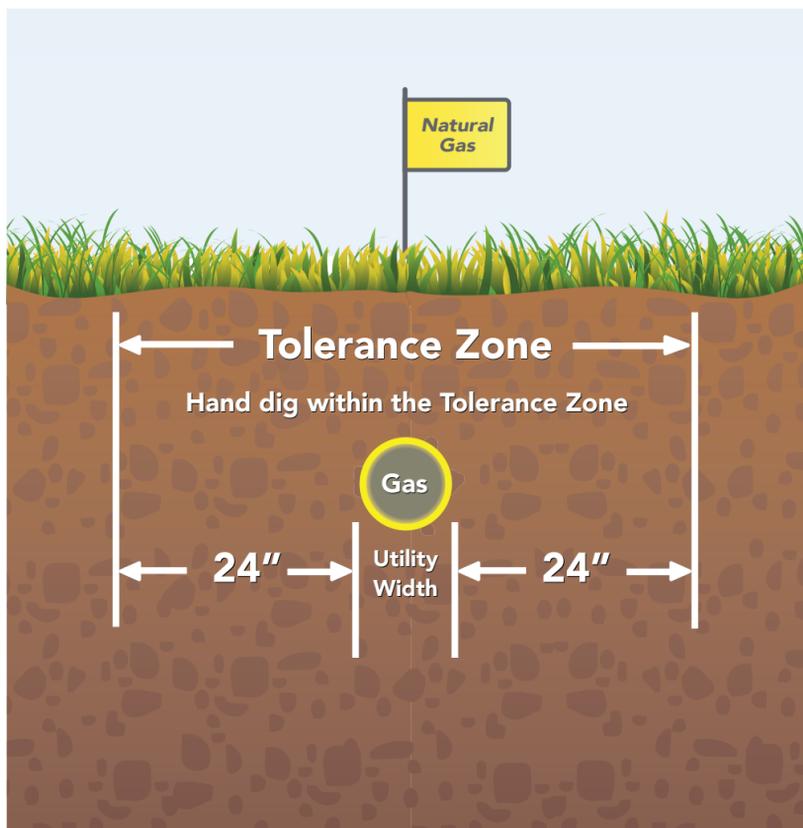
During the electrical grounding process, a wire is connected to a dedicated metal rod or pipe that has been driven into the earth to provide proper grounding.

Grounding to natural gas pipes, meters or services is prohibited by the California Electrical Code, Article 250. Under certain circumstances grounding can energize the natural gas pipe with a dangerous electrical current that can lead to electrical shock injuries. It can also accelerate metal loss from the steel parts which may result in hazardous leaks.

You should never ground your solar system, or any other electrical equipment, to gas meters, pipes or valves.

Digging, excavating, saw cutting, and grading near buried pipelines are major causes of pipeline damage, which can result in injury, costly repairs, natural gas service disruptions and project delays. Regardless of the size or scope of the work you're planning, protect yourself, your employees, and the community by having underground pipelines marked using five simple safety steps:

-  **MARK OUT** your proposed project area in white paint or provide other suitable markings.
-  **CONTACT 811** Underground Service Alert (USA) at [california811.org](http://california811.org) or dial **811**, to submit a location request at least two business days before digging, not including the date of notification. SoCalGas will be contacted, as well as other local utility owners, to mark the location of all utility-owned lines for **FREE**. Check utility responses to your **811** ticket by visiting [DigAlert.org](http://DigAlert.org) or [USANorth.org](http://USANorth.org).
-  **WAIT TO DIG** until we either mark our natural gas pipelines or you are advised that the area is clear.
-  **CONFIRM** utilities have marked the proposed work area. Natural gas is indicated in yellow. If no natural gas pipelines are in your work area you may get a call, email, or see writing on the ground that indicates "no conflict" or "no natural gas."
-  **USE ONLY HAND TOOLS** within 24 inches, plus half the size of the subsurface on each side of marked utility lines, to carefully expose the exact locations of all lines.



A USA ticket with utility information is valid for 28 days. If work is to continue, the ticket must be updated prior to the end of 28 days. SoCalGas may report to the Underground Safety Board, any excavator that is negligent in obtaining a valid USA ticket. Violations may include monetary penalties up to \$100,000.

**NOTE:** SoCalGas is responsible for marking natural gas pipelines up to the natural gas meter. To locate and mark customer-owned lines, which typically run from the meter to natural gas equipment, contact a qualified pipe-locating professional.

### Utilities Color Codes & What They Mean

- **Red:** Electric
- **Yellow:** Natural Gas, oil, steam
- **Orange:** Communications
- **Blue:** Water
- **Purple:** Reclaimed Water
- **Green:** Sewer
- **Pink:** Temporary Markings
- **White:** Proposed Excavation



To report a pipeline emergency, call **911** and SoCalGas at **1-800-427-2200**

# Stay Alert, Act Promptly



## Recognize A Natural Gas Leak

Be alert to any of the signs you may see, hear or smell when there is a leak.



### Look

If you see a damaged connection to a natural gas appliance, dirt/water blowing into the air, dead or dying vegetation, fire or an explosion near a pipeline.



### Listen

If you hear unusual sounds like hissing or whistling.



### Smell

If you smell the distinctive odor\* of gas.

\* Some persons may not be able to smell the odor because they have a diminished sense of smell due to a respiratory illness or another physical condition, olfactory fatigue (normal, temporary inability to distinguish an odor after prolonged exposure to it), or because the odor is being hidden by other odors present. In addition, certain pipeline and soil conditions can cause odor fade (the loss of odorant so that it is not detectable by smell).

## If You Smell Natural Gas Or Suspect A Leak



### IMMEDIATELY EVACUATE THE AREA.

CALL SoCalGas at **1-800-427-2200** from a safe location.

**CALL 911** promptly, from a safe location, if there is damage resulting in a natural gas leak that may endanger life, cause bodily harm or property damage.

**DO NOT** smoke or light a match, candle or create any other flame.

**DO NOT** turn electrical appliances or lights on or off, operate motorized equipment or vehicles, or use any device that could cause a spark.

**DO NOT** attempt to control the leak or repair a damaged pipe or meter. Natural gas leaking from a plastic pipe can create static electricity that can ignite the natural gas.

**REPORT** any pipeline damage by calling SoCalGas immediately at 1-800-427-2200. Even a slight gouge, scrape or dent to a pipeline may harm the integrity of the pipe or cause a dangerous leak in the future.

## Locate Pipelines Near You

Most pipelines are buried underground. Pipeline markers, like this one, identify the approximate locations of major pipelines and include our emergency number. Markers do not indicate the depth or number of pipelines in the area. You can view the approximate locations of major natural gas pipelines at [socalgas.com/Map](https://socalgas.com/Map) or on the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) website at [npms.phmsa.dot.gov](https://npms.phmsa.dot.gov). These maps only indicate the general location of pipelines and should never be used as a substitute for contacting **811**.



## Provide Clear Access To Pipelines

SoCalGas operates natural gas pipelines underground in residential and commercial areas, where you or your company may be receiving natural gas services and/or need to dig or excavate. We monitor natural gas for quality and add a distinctive odor to aid in the detection of leaks. Additionally, we perform pipeline safety tasks, including patrolling, testing, repairing, and replacing pipelines. In order to perform safety-related inspections or respond to pipeline emergencies, we must be able to access the pipeline right-of-way. Please keep the area above pipelines accessible and clear of obstructions, such as shrubs, trees, fences, and other structures. You can also support SoCalGas's safety efforts by contacting 811 before you dig.



To report a pipeline emergency, call **911** and SoCalGas at **1-800-427-2200**.

For additional safety information, visit [socalgas.com/811](https://socalgas.com/811).