

PAINTSVILLE UTILITIES

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NATURAL GAS SAFETY & PUBLIC AWARENESS

Clean, efficient and convenient natural gas provides the United States with over one fourth of its energy needs and natural gas is our nation's most popular home heating fuel. Natural gas travels through various pipelines to the Paintsville Utilities system and is then reliably delivered to your home or business through Paintsville's gas pipeline system.

Our number one priority in delivering this product is the safety of our community. Safety issues in our system are rare and the natural gas delivery system as a whole has the best safety record of all energy delivery systems. However, you should always be prepared for the unlikely event of a gas leak. Natural gas is extremely flammable and if released and contacted by any source of ignition will ignite, and possibly explode.

We are committed to protecting you, your property and the environment, and by implementing programs like these we are better equipped to detect the possibility of a leak happening prior to it actually occurring. These safety guidelines will provide you with important information to help you avoid dangerous activities which could lead to a gas leak, and what steps to take in the event of a leak. Paintsville Utilities engages in many activities to maintain the safety and integrity of our gas system, including:

- Participating in the Kentucky 811, One Call Center
- Regular inspection programs
- Annual operator training and certification
- Implementing prescribed safety practices
- Development of a distribution system integrity management program
- Public Awareness and Damage Prevention Programs
- Coordination with emergency officials

The following are potential hazards you should know:

- Pipelines leaks where uncontrolled gas is escaping into the atmosphere
- Gas migrating into a home or building from an outside leak
- Gas leaks inside a home or building
- The greatest risk to underground pipelines is accidental damage during excavation

The leading cause of damage to buried pipelines is the failure to call and obtain the pipeline's exact location. Damage to pipelines such as a scratch, gouge, crease or dent, may cause a leak. It is your legal responsibility to call 811 before performing any excavation activity. We will mark the approximate location of our lines at no cost to you. Excavation activity can be as simple as planting trees, installing landscaping or installing a fence. **Remember to call before you dig, it's the law.** This is required whether you are using heavy equipment or simply a shovel.

Gas leaks can normally be recognized by:

Sight – Natural gas is colorless, but vapor and “ground frosting” may be visible at high pressures. A leak may also be indicated by bubbles in wet or flooded areas, distinct patches of dead vegetation, dust blowing from a hole in the ground or even flames if the leak is ignited.

Sound – A hissing or roaring noise near a pipeline could indicate a gas leak.

Smell – Paintsville Utilities adds mercaptan to our natural gas which gives the gas a Sulphur or rotten egg smell to help detect leaks. If the gas is from an underground leak, the soil may filter out the odorant.

What you should **NOT** do if a leak occurs:

DO NOT touch, breathe or make contact with the leak

DO NOT light a match, turn light switches on or off, use a cell or home phone, or do anything to create a spark.

DO NOT attempt to extinguish any fire.

DO NOT attempt to operate any valves.

What you should **DO** if a leak occurs:

DO leave the home, building and area of the suspected leak. Get to a safe area.

DO call 911 and the pipeline company from a safe distance.

DO warn others to stay out of the area.

If you need additional information or have any questions related to your gas service please call Paintsville Utilities during normal business hours at 606-789-2630. After hours please call 606-789-2636.