

Safety Is No Accident



Dig Safely

One quarter of all hits to Xcel Energy's natural gas and electric lines happen because someone didn't call **8-1-1** before digging.

One free, easy call to **8-1-1** gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from unnecessary injury or expense.

Respect the marks and avoid digging near them. The line may be shallower than you think.

Be aware that you might have natural gas and electric lines on your property that you own (e.g. outdoor grills, propane lines, dog fencing) that will not be located.

Always Call 8-1-1 Before You Dig



xcelenergy.com/811



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Natural Gas Safety

Recognize the Danger Signs

Smell: Natural gas has no odor, so a harmless odorant called mercaptan is added to help you detect a leak. Many people describe the odor of mercaptan as similar to rotten eggs or sulfur, but it may smell differently to you.

Hear: Leaking natural gas may produce a hissing or blowing sound.

See: A leak also may cause dust, dirt or debris to fly or create blowing or continuous bubbling in water or kill grass or plants for no apparent reason.

Respond: If you detect the smell of natural gas or suspect a natural gas leak, immediately get everyone to a safe location and follow these safety tips:

- Do not turn on or off electrical switches or unplug appliances.
- Avoid using electric appliances such as garage door openers or telephones of any type.
- Do not start up or shut down motor vehicles or any other electrical equipment.
- Avoid open flames or other ignition sources.
- Call Xcel Energy at **1-800-895-2999** and **9-1-1** in an emergency.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Exposure to increased levels of Carbon Monoxide (CO) may cause headaches, drowsiness, dizziness or flu-like symptoms.

- Install CO detectors / alarms near each sleeping area of your home.
- Hire a qualified contractor to inspect your home's fuel burning appliances and venting systems annually.
- Call Xcel Energy at **1-800-895-2999** or **9-1-1** in an emergency suspected to be Carbon Monoxide related.

Electrical Safety

Contact with electricity can result in serious injury or even death. Follow these tips to stay safe:

- ALWAYS assume that electric lines and equipment are energized, even when overhead lines are lying on the ground and/or equipment is damaged.
- Before working outside, always look up and all around for overhead electric lines.
- Keep yourself and any tool you're using at least 10 feet away from overhead electric lines and carry all tools horizontally, especially ladders.
- Call Xcel Energy at **1-800-895-1999** or **9-1-1** in an emergency. If a fallen power line is resting on or near your vehicle, stay in the vehicle until first responders clear the scene.

