



HOMEOWNER SAFETY

Working around

natural gas pipelines

Know the facts. Avoid the
cost of hitting a gas line.

Safety should always be your first priority when working around natural gas pipelines.

The two most important things to remember when considering ground disturbance work are:

1) You must contact Alberta One-Call to arrange to have an ATCO Gas representative come to your home and identify all natural gas facilities in your work area.

Contact: 1.800.242.3447 or www.alberta1call.com



2) Hand expose the natural gas facility.

You must carefully hand expose the natural gas facility if digging within one metre (39 inches) of either side of any locate marks.

WHY IS SAFE GROUND DISTURBANCE SO IMPORTANT?

Contact with buried natural gas pipelines can lead to serious injury or death. Contacts also result in property damage that can cause interruptions in natural gas delivery to others and can be costly to repair.

Ground disturbance work includes but is not limited to:

- > Digging
- > Augering
- > Driving materials into the ground (eg. fence posts, stakes for concrete forms)
- > Mechanical excavation

LOCATING UNDERGROUND UTILITIES - CALL ALBERTA ONE-CALL

The Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Code states you must contact Alberta One-Call to have underground natural gas facilities located in your work area. There is no charge for this service.

Alberta One-Call will arrange to have an ATCO Gas representative come to your home and identify underground facilities in the area. Call 1-800-242-3447 or visit www.alberta1call.com

Alberta One-Call requires at least two full working days notice to do locates. Long weekends and other holiday periods tend to be active times, therefore, more notice is required to meet scheduling requirements.

Some owners of buried utilities do not belong to Alberta One-Call. They must be contacted directly by homeowners requiring locates.

**After your locates are completed, if there is a gas line conflict with your planned project or you suspect something is wrong, please contact ATCO Gas to investigate your concerns.*

Do not construct additions, garages, enclosed patios or decks over gas lines. Provincial regulations allow small, portable, free standing garden sheds, provided no permanent foundation is installed.

TYPICAL LOCATE METHODS

The locator will mark using **temporary paint and flag markings** to indicate where natural gas facilities are buried. Natural gas markings are required to be yellow.

The paint markings indicate:

- > the **direction** the pipeline runs
- > the **approximate location** of the pipeline and/or other facilities (*The depth of the facility will not be provided*)

The **markings** used in locating are a pair of dashed lines connected with a “V.” The “hand expose zone” extends one metre outward from the marks. Figure 1 describes typical locate marks. Figure 2 explains temporary marking definitions and the international colour code for marking buried facilities.

A copy of the locate slip will be left behind for the homeowner. **Please review it to ensure the sketch matches what’s marked in your yard.** Keep this locate slip handy until your project is finished. **Please note that locates have expiry dates.**

HAND EXPOSURE

You must first hand expose the natural gas facility **if your planned ground disturbance is within one metre (39 inches) of the locate marks.** Use a shovel to visually verify

the location and depth of the gas facility. **Dig carefully, many gas lines are made of polyethylene and can be easily severed with a shovel.**

FIG 1 [Temporary locate markings]

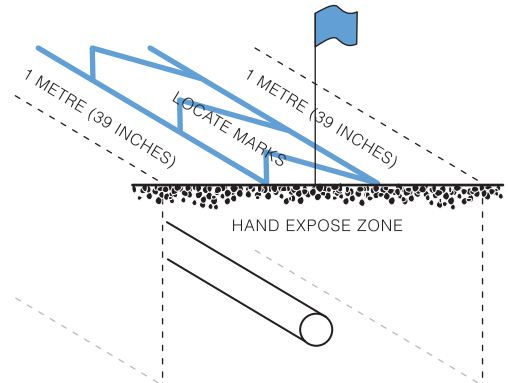


FIG 2 [International colour code for marking buried facilities]

WHITE	Proposed excavation
PINK	Temporary survey markings
RED	Electric power lines, cable conduit, lighting cables
YELLOW	Gas, oil, petroleum, gaseous materials
ORANGE	Telephone, cable tv, communication, alarm, signal lines
BLUE	Potable water
GREEN	Sanitary sewers, storm sewers, drain lines
PURPLE	Reclaimed water, irrigation, slurry lines

THE FACTS

- * The *biggest myth* about underground lines is that they are located deep below the ground surface. **Never assume that a gas line is deeper than your planned ground disturbance.**
- * Over time, as people build structures and landscape, topsoil can be removed or added. As a result, underground lines may be located closer or further below the ground surface.
- * The number one reason why a homeowner hits an underground gas line is because they did not have the lines located by calling Alberta One-Call before the project began.
- * ATCO Gas responds to an average of 900 damaged natural gas line calls every year. **Many of these incidents are on private property where homeowners were planting trees, digging fence post holes, augering piles for a deck or driving stakes/steel bars into the ground for landscaping, or anchoring swing sets without having their utility lines located.**

DAMAGED GAS LINE

- Contact ATCO Gas immediately at 1-800-511-3447 and call 911 if you hit a natural gas line, even if there is no odour or hissing sound.** You should also:
- > Clear all people from the vicinity of the leak and cordon off the site
 - > Do not attempt to repair the leak or bend over the line to stop the escaping gas
 - > Shut off all equipment and vehicles
 - > Remove other sources of ignition
 - > Do not use a cell phone in the vicinity of the hit
 - > Extinguish all cigarettes and open flames
 - > Allow gas to vent to the atmosphere

**Additionally, provincial legislation requires that Alberta Environment be notified by the party responsible for a release of natural gas. Call toll-free 1-800-222-6514.*

HIT LINES >

COST OF REPAIR

- ✦ ATCO Gas investigates every hit line. In addition, depending on the nature of the hit line, the local fire department will also be involved.
- ✦ To be fair to our customers who dig responsibly, ATCO Gas collects the cost to repair the hit line and restore service from the individual or company causing the damage. It may be as little as a few hundred or as much as thousands of dollars.
- ✦ The cost includes ATCO Gas' time and resources to respond, repair the line and restore service to affected customers, the cost of the escaping natural gas, and any fire department response costs.

Dig a Hole Lot Smarter. Call Alberta One-Call at 1-800-242-3447 before you dig.

For more information about underground natural gas lines call ATCO Gas toll-free at 310-5678 or visit www.atcogas.com.