

SPECIAL NOTICE

RESIDENTS IN AND AROUND PRESQUE ISLE ELECTRIC & GAS CO-OP SERVICE TERRITORY IN NORTHEAST MICHIGAN

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op (PIE&G) has nearly 1,600 miles of underground pipeline facilities across northeastern Michigan. Although you may not receive service from PIE&G from these facilities, they may be located in your yard, across the street, or in your neighborhood. The approximate location of these underground facilities may be marked by flat markers or marker posts (yellow for natural gas and red for electric) with the name and emergency contact information for the utility. These markers are in place to prevent damage to the underground pipeline and nearby property, and to avoid personal injury. **Removing or destroying these markers is a criminal act. You may also be held legally liable for damages.**

Damage to underground facilities can result in serious personal injury or property damage. As one way to safeguard against these damages, PIE&G relies on the Miss Dig System, Inc. MISS DIG is a utility communication system that works on your behalf to meet the requirements of Public Act 174, by notifying affected utilities before you begin to dig, tunnel, or discharge explosives. **Remember, MISS DIG must be notified 3 full business days BEFORE you start a project. It only works if you make the call to 1-800-482-7171 or by dialing 811.** MISS DIG is a free service. If PIE&G has underground facilities in your project area, a locator will visit your project and mark the approximate location of our underground facilities. Once marked, it is illegal to use any construction equipment within four feet of those marks until the facility is positively identified by sight using soft excavation techniques such as a hand shovel, vacuum, or water.

HERE ARE SOME OTHER TIPS TO KEEP YOU SAFE AROUND PIE&G FACILITIES:

HOW TO RECOGNIZE A GAS LEAK

When working in areas around underground pipelines, be alert to the following signs of a potential hazard:

- A rotten egg odor.
- Brown patches in vegetation.
- Evidence of blowing gas such as a hissing noise, blowing dirt, bubbling water or mud.
- Fire coming from the ground or burning above the ground.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU DAMAGE AN UNDERGROUND FACILITY

If a pipeline has been damaged by contact and there is a release of gas, PA 174 requires the party causing damage to call 911. The following list of actions will also help to minimize the hazard:

- **SHUT OFF** any running equipment.
- **DO NOT** attempt to cover the pipe with dirt, crimp the line, or plug the line. Allow the gas to vent into the atmosphere.

- **DO NOT PUT OUT A GAS FIRE.** If the gas ignites, let it burn. Burning gas will not explode.
- **NOTIFY** the operator or utility owner of the pipeline (see name and phone on marker).

If there are buildings or people in the area:

- **EVACUATE** people in an upwind or crosswind direction.
- **DO NOT** operate light switches, doorbells, door openers, or use phones. Leave doors open as you leave.

- **KEEP PEOPLE AWAY** from the leak area. Do not let anyone return until utility or emergency personnel declare it is safe to do so.

- **DO NOT** allow smoking or the operation of any motorized vehicle or electrical equipment.

If your equipment makes contact with an underground facility, **STOP ALL WORK IMMEDIATELY** and call the utility. This gives the utility an opportunity to investigate the extent of the damage. Don't assume that damage can only happen at the point of contact. A facility that is pulled or bumped could break at another location away from the actual point of contact. Any damage, including damage to the coating on a pipeline or facility, can lead to a catastrophic failure in the future. For everyone's safety, call the utility to report the contact.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- If you see a downed wire, **STAY FAR AWAY.** Lines on the ground can remain energized even if it's not sparking. Immediately call PIE&G and 911.

- If your vehicle makes contact with a power line, wait inside the vehicle if possible. If you must exit the vehicle, jump clear of fallen lines. **DO NOT** touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Land with your feet together and shuffle away.

- Keep kites and balloons away from power lines.

- **LOOK UP** when carrying ladders or other long objects near overhead lines.

- Contact the utility before trimming trees near overhead lines. Do not let kids climb trees near power lines.

Your prompt action may save lives or prevent serious injury or property damage. **DO NOT** leave or ignore a potentially hazardous situation. **IT'S THE LAW. CALL 911 AND PIE&G.**