



2026 UPDATE



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AFTER POSITIVE RESPONSE—NEXT STEPS



After using 811 and confirming responses through Indiana 811's Positive Response system, the next step is to dig with care, especially within the tolerance zone. Indiana regulations mandate a two-foot tolerance zone on either side of the marks, including the area above, below and around the underground facility.

Because only certain types of excavation are allowed within this zone, crews should use safe, controlled methods to carefully expose facilities before work continues. Vacuum excavation can be a valuable damage prevention tool when used appropriately, helping improve visibility, reduce risk and support safer excavation near buried infrastructure.

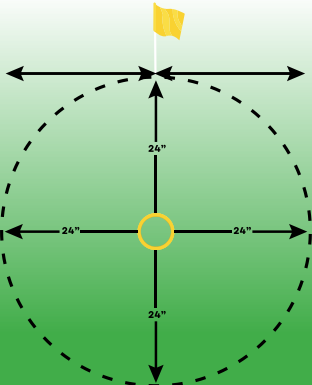
OUR MISSION AT INPAA—

To lead Indiana in promoting safety and preventing damage to underground facilities by providing excellent coordination and notification services at a reasonable cost.



SAVE TIME, GO ONLINE!
Whether you're a homeowner or a professional excavator, Indiana811.org is the quickest way to submit your dig request.

TOLERANCE ZONE



PIPELINE SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU.

As excavators, you play an integral role in keeping our communities safe by taking the necessary precautions when breaking ground, especially in areas where pipelines are present. Contact Indiana 811 at least two full working days before any digging project. Once lines are properly marked, always dig with care.

Know what’s below and be the first step to pipeline safety.

RECOGNIZE A SUSPECTED LEAK.

Use your senses of sight, sound and smell to recognize a suspected leak hazard.

- SIGHT** Natural gas is colorless, but there are some visual signs of a leak:
- Blowing dirt or bubbling water
 - Vapor clouds
 - Dead vegetation
 - Frozen soil/ice

For hazardous liquid pipelines, look for:
 - Pools of liquid or sheen on water
 - Dense white cloud/fog above

SOUND For both natural gas and hazardous liquids, signs of a potential leak include an unusual hissing or roaring sound along the right-of-way of a pipeline.

SMELL Both transmission natural gas and hazardous liquids have a stale, unusual scent. Local natural gas distribution operators add mercaptan closer to homes and businesses, giving gas a "rotten egg or sulfur-like odor" smell. Some people may not be able to smell the odor due to a diminished sense of smell, the odor being masked by other odors in the area, and in rare conditions, odor fade, which may cause the odor to diminish so that it is not detectable.



IF A LEAK OCCURS, TAKE ACTION IMMEDIATELY.

1. Abandon all equipment and leave the leak area immediately.
2. Remove all ignition sources (*cigarettes, mobile phones, or anything that could create a spark or static electricity, like turning a light switch on or off*).
3. Move to a safe location before calling 911 and the pipeline company. After the site is secure, notify Indiana 811 of the damage.
4. Warn others to stay out of the leak area.
5. Wait for emergency responders to arrive from a safe distance.



TO AVOID INJURY TO YOURSELF AND YOUR COMMUNITY, KEEP IN MIND THE FOLLOWING:

- DO NOT** touch, breathe, or make contact with the leak or open flames. Natural gas and other hazardous liquid products will ignite and burn. If exposed to the skin, serious irritations may occur. Escaping gases can displace oxygen, putting your ability to breathe normally at risk.
- DO NOT** light anything that produces an open flame.
- DO NOT** start motor vehicles or any other electrical equipment that could produce a spark.
- DO NOT** operate any pipeline valves. Only the pipeline operator should turn off the flow of natural gas, oil or any other material transported by the pipeline.
- DO NOT** attempt to extinguish any fire. Instead, wait for first responders to arrive from a safe distance.

CONTACT INDIANA 811 BEFORE YOU DIG.

Indiana state law requires excavators to contact Indiana 811 at least two full working days, not including weekends or holidays, prior to their planned start date to notify member utility operators of their intent to dig.

FOLLOW THE FIVE STEPS OF SAFE DIGGING:

1. **Plan your project**, including knowing the exact location.
2. **Contact Indiana 811** by calling 811 or visiting [Indiana811.org/submit-a-ticket](https://indiana811.org/submit-a-ticket).
3. **Wait for the marks** (typically two full working days).
4. **Check Positive Response** (compare the colors of the marks to the list of utilities provided by Indiana 811).
5. **Dig with care** (expose underground facilities within tolerance zone by hand digging).

Additional Indiana dig law information is available at [Indiana811.org/resources/law](https://indiana811.org/resources/law).

TAKE THE SURVEY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!



Please complete a short survey by scanning the QR code for the chance to win a **\$500 Visa® gift card**. The survey closes July 31, 2026, and two winners will be selected and notified by phone by August 20, 2026.

SCAN NOW!



Call 811 or visit
INDIANA811.ORG

PIPELINES AND THE PUBLIC.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT), pipelines are the safest and most reliable method of transporting natural gas and hazardous liquid products. The Indiana Pipeline Awareness Association (INPAA) represents all pipeline operators in the state to partner with professional excavators like you for the continued safe operation of these facilities.

US DOT data shows that the leading cause of pipeline leaks is third-party excavation, meaning digging activity not performed by the pipeline operator or a direct contractor of that operator. Accidentally striking a pipeline can lead to serious injury or death, making it critical for professional excavators to follow appropriate safety procedures. Your local pipeline operators conduct regular inspections and patrols to protect the lines that serve your community.

INPAA's goal is to equip you with the knowledge needed to prevent damage to pipelines, and to properly recognize and then safely react if you encounter a suspected leak.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Indiana Pipeline Awareness Association
INPAA.org

Indiana 811
Indiana811.org

Indiana 811 Online Tickets
Indiana811.org/submit-a-ticket

National Pipeline Mapping System
npms.phmsa.dot.gov

Damage Prevention Councils
Indiana811.org/dpc

Safe Gas Indiana
SafeGasIndiana.org

Safe Dig Indiana
SafeDigIndiana.com

Don't forget your removable color code card



SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS.
EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME.

COLOR CODE FOR UTILITY MARKINGS

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| <div></div> | ELECTRIC |
| <div></div> | GAS-OIL-STEAM |
| <div></div> | COMMUNICATIONS |
| <div></div> | WATER |
| <div></div> | SEWER |
| <div></div> | RECLAIMED WATER |
| <div></div> | TEMPORARY SURVEY MARKINGS |
| <div></div> | PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION |

Visit [Indiana811.org](https://indiana811.org) or call 811
two full working days before you dig.

