



## After Hours or Emergency: 911

Gopher State One Call  
800-252-1166 or dial 811

### Responding to Natural Gas Leaks

Knowing how to recognize, react and report natural gas emergencies can help keep you and your community safe.

#### 1. Recognize

- “Rotten egg” smell
- Blowing or hissing sound
- Dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area
- Dirt or dust blowing from a hole in the ground
- Bubbling in wet or flooded areas
- Flames, if a leak has ignited

#### 2. React

- Leave the area immediately, without using anything that could ignite the natural gas
- Do not use any electrical device, such as light switches, telephones, cell phones, garage door openers
- Do not use an open flame, matches or lighters
- Do not try to locate the source of the gas leak
- Do not try to shut off any natural gas valves or gas appliances
- Do not start vehicles
- Do not re-enter the building or return to the area until our employee says it’s safe to do so

#### 3. Report

**Go to a safe location**  
Then call 9-1-1

## Safe Digging Practices

Once underground facilities are marked:

Avoid digging within four feet of marks

Use hand tools to expose buried utility lines before using power equipment within four feet of marks.

### GOPHER STATE ONE CALL (GSOC)

is a free statewide service that allows utilities to locate any buried facilities they own before you start digging. Just call 2 business days before digging and provide the requested information to the operator.

GSOC can be reached by dialing 8-1-1 or 800-252-1166. Remember...  
**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG...**  
It’s the Law!!!

The City of Randall operates a 60lbs. PSI system of underground natural gas pipelines to provide safe and economical energy to the residents and businesses of our community. We operate approximately 11 miles of main line with approximately 300 meters.



## Natural Gas Pipeline Safety

### City of Randall, MN

### Randall Municipal Utilities

525 Pacific Avenue

Randall, MN 56475

320-749-2159

Email:

[randallcity@brainerd.net](mailto:randallcity@brainerd.net)

Website:

<http://www.randall.govoffice2.com>



## Natural Gas Safety Facts

### Detecting natural gas leaks

Natural gas is naturally colorless, tasteless, and odorless.

Natural gas in most large, cross country transmission pipelines is odorless.

A “rotten egg” odor is added before the gas enters the local distribution system for delivery to local homes and businesses so gas leaks can be detected quickly, without special equipment.

### Gas flammability

To burn, natural gas must be mixed with air and have access to an ignition source.

Ignition sources can be anything with an open flame like pilot lights, matches, stoves, and ovens. Ignition sources also include most things with an on/off switch such as indoor lights, cell phones, car motors, garage door openers, etc.

If natural gas does ignite, do not attempt to put out the flame. Burning natural gas will not explode.

### Natural gas is not LPG

Liquefied petroleum gases (LPG) such as propane, are different than natural gas. They are heavier than air and collect in low places. Natural gas is almost 40 percent lighter than air and will rise: eventually the gas will dissipate if outside or in open, ventilated spaces.

## Natural Gas Hazards

We work hard to maintain a safe gas system. However, if not timely addressed, natural gas leaks could cause fire and/or explosions. Asphyxiation could also result because natural gas can displace oxygen in confined spaces.

Gas leaks can be caused by

Excavating accidents that result in the rupture, nicking, or puncturing of a pipeline.

Placing extremely heavy materials or equipment over buried pipelines, such as soil piles, heavy equipment outriggers, etc.

Water main breaks that weaken roadways and pavement can result in damaged pipelines.

Excess accumulation of snow and ice on meters, gas pipes, and gas appliance exhaust, and combustion air vents. Exercise care when removing snow and ice.

Collapsed buildings that break or damage gas pipelines.

Fire or explosion near a pipeline.

Too much, or not enough pressure in the gas system.

Equipment failure or corrosion.

Natural disasters such as floods, tornadoes or earthquakes.



**Don't Risk It!**

Nearly two in five U.S. homeowners will put themselves and their communities at risk this year by digging without calling 811 beforehand.\*

\*CGA 2021 Omnibus Study

Always contact 811 before digging to avoid service disruptions caused by damaging buried utilities.

**811**

**Safe Digging**

A major cause of leaks is damage from someone accidentally striking an underground pipeline. This is a serious safety threat and can lead to personal harm, physical damages and financial loss.

GSOC is a free service that will contact utility companies to have underground lines marked with stakes, flags or paint. Residents and employees should contact 8-1-1 even for routine jobs such as planting shrubs or trees, replacing a mailbox post or installing a fence or deck.

Underground facilities belonging to the property owner such as electric lines and gas lines after the meter, invisible dog fences, sprinkler systems are considered private utilities and will not be staked by utilities responding to a GSOC request.

Residents are responsible for marking these lines. Contractors may be available who can provide this staking service for a fee.