

Safety Information Sheet **"Dig Safely / Call Before You Dig"**

Following is information on natural gas safety:

- Most natural gas accidents are caused by someone digging without first calling Dig Safe / Call Before You Dig or not digging carefully
- You can help prevent natural gas accidents. If you see someone digging in your neighborhood, ask them if they've called Dig Safe. This is the single most important thing you can do.
- If you are about to have work done on your property - whether home or business - that requires excavation or digging, be sure that you or your contractor contacts the Dig Safe / Call Before You Dig agency to ensure that the property has been marked for any natural gas lines. This is the single most important thing you can do.
- In March 2005, the American Gas Foundation released the report, "Safety Performance and Integrity of the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure." This report examines the safety performance of distribution pipelines and documents the causes of "serious accidents" – those involving injury or fatality - on the gas distribution system between 1990 and 2002. The study reveals a 40% downward trend in serious incidents in that time period. It also found that the leading cause of serious incidents during the study period was damage by outside force, accounting for nearly half (47%) of all serious incidents. Most of these were the result of excavation damage by third parties.
- If any work with natural gas appliances is being done in your home or business, be sure you are using only licensed natural gas contractors.
- If you have questions about natural gas safety, please contact your local natural gas utility.

Key Contacts:

- **If you are a resident of Connecticut, the toll-free number for "Call Before You Dig" is 1-800-922-4455. Web: <http://www.cbyd.com/>**
- **If you are a resident of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Maine or Vermont, the toll-free phone number for "Dig Safe" is 1-888-344-7233. Web: <http://www.digsafe.com/>**
- **If you are a resident of New Jersey, the toll-free number for "New Jersey One-Call" is 1-800-272-1000. Web: <http://www.nj1-call.org/>**
- **If you are a resident of New York, the toll-free number for "Dig Safely New York" is 1-800-962-7962. Web: <http://www.ufpo.org/>**
- **As of May 2007, there is a new national "811" number to call before you dig. This number will also guide you to your state or local information. The phone number is simply: 811. Web: www.call811.com/**

- Safety is a point of pride in our industry. It's one of the reasons natural gas utilities in the Northeast region have been providing gas service to customers for over 150 years - and also why more than half the homes in the United States and over two-thirds of its schools use gas.
- Community and excavator education is a priority for our industry. Local natural gas utilities provide training for fire departments on how to respond to natural gas-related accidents and also excavator training for DPW departments and other excavators.
- Natural gas itself is very safe. Like any other fuel, it must be respected and used properly.