

Pipeline Safety

The Washington Gas system is part of a vast nationwide network of mostly underground pipelines that deliver natural gas. The company operates approximately 200 miles of **transmission** pipelines and thousands of miles of **distribution** pipelines.

Transmission pipe carries natural gas at high pressures from gate stations — where gas enters the system — to regulator stations, where pressure is reduced for distribution to customers. Pipeline markers indicate the presence, but not the exact location or depth, of transmission pipelines in underground rights-of-way. The markers identify the fuel, operator, and phone numbers to call *before* digging or excavating. Less than half of Washington Gas's transmission pipe is in high consequence areas, where gas leaks could have greater consequences to health, safety and the environment. **Distribution** pipelines deliver natural gas directly to customers and can cause serious injury if damaged by digging or excavating. The majority of buried distribution pipelines are *not* marked aboveground.

Therefore, whether you are planting a tree in the back yard or planning major excavation work, it's critical to have all underground utility lines in the work area or pipeline right-of-way located *before* you begin to dig — regardless of whether any type of pipeline markers are visible. It's the law, and, now, it's easier than ever to comply. Just dial **811**. Your call to **811** starts the process of having the underground utilities located and marked with bright safety paint and/or flags. *Always* call **811** before you dig to prevent serious injury and property damage. 🌐