

## Excavating Safely – General Advice

- You must have a site induction and read relevant risk assessments to prevent injury.
- You must have full colour plans of National Grid gas pipes available on site before work commences. The position of all National Grid gas apparatus should be established using plant location equipment and marked clearly on the surface before excavation work begins – if in doubt ask your supervisor
- Before work begins, trial holes should be dug to find the exact position of gas pipes, using recognised and agreed safe hand digging techniques.

- Before using mechanical excavators always locate gas pipes by hand dug trial holes.
- You must not use a mechanical excavator
  - within 0.5 metres of a low/medium pressure gas pipe
  - within 3.0 m of an intermediate pressure gas pipe
- Any concrete blocks near gas pipes must not be removed as they may be part of an anchoring system – if in doubt contact National Grid on **0800 688 588**.
- Gas pipes must be supported as agreed and detailed in the risk assessment.
- Take care to avoid trench collapse. Trench sheets must not be placed against metallic gas pipes.

- To avoid injury you must use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as detailed in the risk assessment.
- Do not use any exposed gas pipe as a hand hold or step.
- Report all damage, no matter how slight. A gas pipe that has been struck, but appears undamaged, may have caused a leak in a building with a risk of explosion and injury or loss of life.

For further information and free downloads please visit:  
<http://www.nationalgrid.comdialbeforeyoudig>

**STOP – Do not start work without gas plans**

**LOOK – Carry out a visual survey, use a pipe locator and hand dig trial holes**

**LISTEN – Follow National Grid instructions**

## In case of Gas Emergency

If you cause a gas leak, or suspect that gas pipe or equipment is leaking, you must take the following actions immediately:

- Stop work and get everyone away from the immediate vicinity of the escape.
- Inform the National Gas Emergency Service immediately on 0800 111 999\*.
- Do not attempt to stop the escape by filling the hole as gas may enter buildings.
- If escaping gas is entering properties advise the occupants to leave until it is deemed safe to return by National Grid staff.

- Do not attempt to operate any valves (unless directed by call centre staff to close emergency control valves at domestic properties).
- Damage to a service supplying a building may result in gas entering the building.
- Prevent any approach to the immediate vicinity of the escape.
- Prohibit smoking and extinguish all naked flames or other ignition sources for at least 15m from the leakage.
- Assist National Grid, Police or Fire Services as requested.

**Smell gas? Call 0800 111 999\***

\*All calls are recorded and may be monitored

## GAS CONTACTS

The National Gas Emergency Service

**0800 111 999\***

Plant Protection Team

**0800 688 588**

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Avoiding injury while working near gas pipes

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