

Excavation safety is your responsibility



Did you know?
Service tees, valves and other typical fittings protrude upwards from gas piping and may be easily struck and damaged by excavation equipment.

Striking or rupturing an underground utility line while digging can create an unsafe situation for you and the general public. It can also seriously delay your work schedule. When planning an excavation, take some time to think ahead. After all, it's better to be safe than sorry.

Excavating diligently near natural gas lines helps prevent injury to the public, your employees and our gas system.

It's your obligation to verify the location of natural gas pipelines in order to ensure safety on the job.

Excavation regulations

- Gas Safety Regulation
- WorkSafeBC – Occupational Health & Safety Regulation at www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/OHSRegulation/Part20.asp
- Pipeline Act
- Terms of existing right of way agreements and crossing permits

Take these three steps before you start digging:

1. Call BC One Call at 1-800-474-6886 or *6886 on your cellular to request gas line location information.
2. Use this information to mark the location of buried gas lines.
3. Hand dig to expose the gas line.

Permits

If you're working within a right of way or in an area within two metres of pipe(s) pressurized at 100 psi (700kPa) or greater, a permit is required before digging. Work must not proceed until the permit is issued

and arrangements have been made for a Terasen Gas representative to be on-site. For permit information, please call the number for your area:

*Lower Mainland or Interior, call 1-877-599-0996.
Vancouver Island, Texada Island, Sunshine Coast
or Whistler, call 250-380-5797 or 250-751-8341.*

Excavation guidelines

Electronically locate and mark lines with paint or stakes and maintain them until digging is underway. You must **HAND DIG FIRST** in several locations to locate and expose the pipe before excavating with power tools and equipment for any purpose other than breaking the surface. See Section 39(7) of the Gas Safety Regulation at www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/reg/S/103_2004.htm

Requirements for blasting in the vicinity of a natural gas installation

Notification period of blasting does not start until after a blasting plan has been provided to Terasen Gas. A blasting plan must be submitted by the contractor's blasting engineer containing the following:

- location of blasting relative to Terasen Gas facilities
- type and size of charge and delay
- declaration that the blasting plan is based on the

utility information provided, local ground concerns and theory

- confirmation that the blast will not damage the utility

Best practices

1. “Hand dig” to locate and expose all buried facilities before using powered excavation equipment as per provincial regulations.
2. Powered equipment must not be used within 1 metre of the gas line when locating and exposing.
3. Once the gas pipe is located and hand exposed, powered equipment may then be used to a distance of not closer than 50 cm (1.6 feet).
4. Wherever possible, powered excavation equipment should be operated to dig parallel to the direction of the gas line.
5. If it is not practical to hand dig, hydrovacating may be considered. Check with Terasen Gas before hydrovacating to avoid damaging pipe coating or wrapping.
6. You must obtain additional location information and approvals if you wish to excavate outside the area for which gas line location records have been provided.
7. You are not authorized to cut or remove inactive natural gas lines.
8. Notify Terasen Gas when a pipe or coating is damaged so an inspection and repair can be done.
9. If your project is delayed and excavation work has not started within 10 working days of receiving gas line information, you must reverify the location information through BC One Call before beginning work.

WARNING: *Fittings may protrude from the pipe and can be easily damaged by excavation equipment.*

Don't try and guess where it's safe to dig

Whether you're digging up a major intersection, installing fence posts, landscaping or building a deck, it's important to know what lies underground before you disturb the surface.

Don't dig blindly. Whatever construction project you're undertaking, it's your responsibility to obtain gas line location information to ensure the public and your workers are safe.

The information provided on this sheet should be used as a guide only. All natural gas piping and appliance installations should meet manufacturer's instructions and all applicable codes, standards and regulations.

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Who to call to request gas line location information

Call BC ONE CALL at 1-800-474-6886 or *6886 on your cellular a minimum of three business days before you begin your excavation. This is required under provincial gas safety regulations. Terasen Gas will give you information to help you safely determine the location of underground natural gas lines. If you have difficulty locating the line(s), contact the number on your faxed locate request form for assistance. If you still can't physically locate the gas line, call Terasen Gas for locate assistance.

Remember: Keep the gas line location information on-site at all times.

If you damage a natural gas pipe

Contractors are responsible for notifying Terasen Gas and WorkSafeBC of damage to natural gas lines. Any person damaging Terasen Gas underground utilities is responsible for all associated costs.

If you smell or hear leaking gas

- remove all sources of ignition, including lit cigarettes, cell phones, power tools and equipment
- move workers upwind if possible
- call Terasen Gas immediately at 1-800-663-9911
- never try to make temporary repairs yourself
- do not backfill over damaged pipe
- never bend a pipe to fix a break

Stop work if

- a pipe has been struck, jarred or pulled
- you detect a rupture
- the tracer wire or pipe wrapping is damaged
- you're working on another utility emergency and discover natural gas pipes where you're digging

Call Terasen Gas immediately at 1-800-663-9911.

Definitions

TP and IP pipelines

All pipelines that operate in excess of 700 kPa (100 psi)

Distribution pressure

All pipelines under 700 kPa (100 psi)

