



Austell Natural Gas System

Newsletter

July, 2021

Austell Gas System

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Austell, GA 30168

(770)-948-1841

[24 hrs./day]

www.austellgas.com

Important Sources:

-U.S. DOT Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)

-GA 811

-American Public Gas Association (APGA)

-American Gas Association (AGA)

-Georgia Ground Alliance (CGA)

-Georgia Public Service Commission (GPSC)



Austell Gas Core Values:

-Safety

-Service

-Price

Hazard Awareness and Prevention

Most natural gas pipelines are buried underground not only for safety reasons, but to protect them from weather and to provide reliable service. Despite the excellent safety record of the natural gas industry, sometimes pipeline failures do occur due to corrosion, material failure or other causes such as digging into a pipeline. Natural gas is lighter than air, in the open atmosphere gas rises and dissipates into the air. In a confined space, natural gas rises to the highest level and may accumulate. Natural gas is combustible and can be dangerous. Potential hazards from escaping gas when exposed to an ignition source are fire and explosion. Additionally, natural gas can displace oxygen in a confined space and cause asphyxiation. We diligently operate our system safely through a variety of measures including:

- Pipeline Integrity Management program
- Coordination with Georgia 811
- Design, construction, operations and maintenance standards
- Pipeline safety regulations
- Inspection procedures including leak survey and pipeline patrolling
- Workforce qualifications
- Pipeline markers
- Facility mapping
- Industry best practices

Damage Prevention / One Call

The Georgia Dig law requires both professional excavators and homeowners to have utility lines marked before performing any mechanized digging, demolition, or working within 10 feet of overhead power lines. Call 811 even if you plan to manually dig. By knowing where underground utility lines are buried before digging will help protect you from injury and/or expense.

Calling Georgia 811 before digging is a service free of charge. Call at least 48 hours, but no more than 10 working days, excluding weekends and legal holidays, before starting your digging project. Calling 811 starts the process to get your underground utility lines marked.

The single greatest cause of accidents regarding natural gas pipelines is digging by third party excavators. Third Party refers to those other than the pipeline operator. Please report any suspected signs of damage to our pipeline. If you strike a natural gas pipeline, please immediately notify us even if the damage seems to be minor, such as a scrape or dent.

Safety is for everyone. Please watch for markers indicating where natural gas pipelines are located and always: **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG 1-800-282-7411 or 811.**

Leak Recognition and Response

Although pipelines are built with safety and reliability in mind, it is possible to have a natural gas leak inside or outside the home. The following three key senses will help you detect a gas leak.

- LOOK for blowing dirt, bubbling water or dry spots in moist areas. Also look for dying vegetation in an otherwise green environment.
- LISTEN for noises such as hissing, blowing, roaring or whistling near a gas line or natural gas appliance.
- SMELL natural gas is colorless and odorless. Mercaptan is added to the natural gas to give it a rotten egg smell. This enables easier detection if a natural gas leak is present.

Austell Gas System welcomes your questions regarding natural gas safety. Please feel free to contact us at: (770)-948-1841



Learn more by visiting:
www.austellgas.com

Flexible Connectors:



If a gas leak is detected, leave the premises immediately. Never try to find or stop a gas leak. Upon your exit, do not create any possible source of ignition, including using a telephone, turning off and on light switches, starting a car, lighting a lighter, etc. Always get everyone a safe distance from the possible leak.

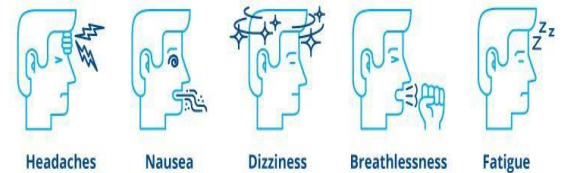
- Call Austell Gas System IMMEDIATELY at 770-948-1841, option 1 or 911 to report a gas leak to a live representative 24/7 from your cell phone or a neighboring house.
- Austell Gas will send a certified technician to properly make the area safe again. Do not reenter the area until a leak investigation has been conducted.

Carbon Monoxide

When a natural gas appliance is properly operating, complete combustion safely burns the gas. Complete combustion produces carbon dioxide and water vapor, which are non-hazardous by-products. However, incomplete combustion occurs when there is insufficient air available for complete burning of the fuel. The most dangerous by-product of incomplete combustion is carbon monoxide (CO). CO is a colorless, odorless, tasteless poisonous gas that is produced by the incomplete burning of various fuels such as: coal, wood, oil, kerosene, charcoal, propane, and natural gas. Because CO is undetectable to the human senses, a person may not know that they are being exposed to the CO poisoning. The initial symptoms of low to moderate CO poisoning are similar to the flu.

They include:

- Headache, Nausea, Fatigue, and Shortness of breath. Higher levels of CO poisoning include: Vomiting, mental confusion, loss of muscular coordination, loss of consciousness, and too much inhaled CO can be fatal.



How to prevent CO poisoning:

- Appliances should be installed and operated according to the manufacturer's instructions and local codes.
- At the beginning of every heating season, have your heating system and other fuel burning appliances professionally inspected and serviced by a HVAC dealer or licensed plumber.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home that will sound when potentially dangerous levels of CO are detected

If any member of your household is experiencing symptoms of CO poisoning, immediately get them out of the house and seek medical attention. If you suspect carbon monoxide, play it safe and get fresh air immediately. Austell Gas System personnel are available at all times to perform an investigation. Please call 770-948-1841, option 1.

Pipeline Purpose and Reliability

Since 1954, Austell Gas System has delivered exceptional natural gas service to meet the energy needs of our customers. Austell Gas System receives natural gas from our supplier at three separately located city gate stations. This received natural gas then travels through our well maintained network of pressure regulating equipment, mains, service lines, and meters until it reaches the end user. Austell Gas operates a safe and secure natural gas system. Proven pipeline integrity is due to the design, construction, operation, inspection and maintenance of our entire natural gas system along with evaluating and enhancing our pipeline security.



Flexible Connectors

Flexible corrugated metal gas connectors are used to attach gas appliances such as gas furnaces, ranges, water heaters, and clothes dryers to gas supply lines and should not be used as a substitute for gas piping. Two or more connectors should not be joined together neither should they be installed through walls, floors, cabinets, etc. Some older, uncoated brass connectors can possibly be a safety hazard. This is due to corrosion or breakage causing a gas leak. Moving an appliance can cause failure of one of these older weaker flexible connectors. It is recommended that these older connectors be immediately replaced.

