

PUBLIC HAZARD AWARENESS MESSAGE FROM THE OAK RIDGE UTILITY DISTRICT

In our community, the Oak Ridge Utility District provides natural gas to more than 12,000 customers through a network of underground distribution lines that branch into household service lines. The pipes are typically made of “caution yellow” plastic or tar-coated steel which helps prevent corrosion. The main lines are typically 2-4 inches in diameter and are located roughly two-feet below the surface, while service lines are typically half-inch to three-quarter-inch in diameter and buried 12- to 18-inches below the surface.

That’s why it’s important to “Call Before You Dig” or move earth in any way. Whether you’re installing an underground dog fence, running water to an outbuilding or post-hole digging for a new mail box post, underground piping and other utilities can be damaged. When you call the Tennessee One Call center by dialing 811 or 1-800-351-1111, they will notify the utility owners to locate buried utility lines on your property, so you can safely dig and prevent a potentially hazardous condition. Calling before you dig can prevent a costly or even deadly mistake.

Natural gas is a colorless, odorless gas; however, a chemical that smells like rotten eggs is added to help detect a possible leak. If you smell this odor, or just think you might be smelling gas, leave the area immediately and call ORUD at 865-483-1377 or 911 from a neighboring home or business. Never turn on or off switches or use a flashlight or phone in the presence of the gas smell, because an electric spark could ignite the gas, causing an explosion.

Do your part to familiarize yourself and your family with these natural gas safety tips and continue to enjoy the value, comfort and benefits of America’s cleanest, most efficient energy source!

This message is brought to you by The Oak Ridge Utility District as a public service announcement. To learn more about our natural gas service and the benefits of natural gas, email jpatterson@orud.org or call (865) 483-1377.

Thank you for helping keep our pipelines and communities safe.

Sincerely,



Jeff Patterson, Operations Manager
ORUD Public Awareness Manager

