

# Let's Talk About Energy Safety

**CALL BEFORE  
YOU DIG**



**CAUTION  
PIPELINE  
GASS**

**FOR A GAS  
EMERGENCY  
CALL  
CITY OF MESA  
480-644-4277  
AND 911**

The arrival of spring typically means it's time to grab a broom and clean up around the house, which also makes this a great time to brush up on energy safety.

Potential risks are everywhere, whether inside or outside the home. So take a few moments to review some simple tips to help ensure that this season's activities are enjoyed as safely as possible.

## Outdoor Safety

### Natural Gas Outdoor Safety

Since most natural gas pipelines are buried underground, you may not be aware that you live or work close to a pipeline. Pipelines are often marked by above ground signs to provide an indication of their presence, the product carried, and the contact information of the pipeline operator. These signs are typically located along pipeline right-of-ways and at road and railroad crossings.

As part of Mesa's on-going safety program, pipelines are inspected regularly for damages or leaks. By learning that natural gas pipelines are present and being able to recognize and react to a natural gas leak early, you can help to keep natural gas pipelines safe for everyone.

A natural gas leak may be present if you...

- *Smell: An odor similar to rotten eggs.*
- *Hear: An unusual hissing sound coming from a pipeline, appliance, or a natural gas meter.*
- *See: Unusual changes to soil, dead or dying vegetation.*

**If you suspect a natural gas leak, call 480-644-4277 (GASS) or 911.**

### Electric Outdoor Safety

Many electrical hazards can be found around the house and not just inside the walls. The Consumer Product Safety Commission provides a number of recommendations for outdoor electricity safety.

- Keep trees pruned and away from overhead power lines, as well as from where the power lines approach the house.
- Do not fly kites, model aircraft, or balloons near power lines.
- When using a ladder, carefully inspect the surrounding area to be sure it is free from power lines.

*When you see a marker like this one, you know a gas line is nearby.*

- Stay away from any utility service equipment, such as transformer cabinets, cable and telephone junction boxes.
- Do not swim or play in water during an electrical storm, even if it is not raining.
- Always assume that contact with a power line can be deadly.
- Do not approach a downed power line to see if it is live - it may give no signs that are easily observed, but it is just as deadly. Call 911 or 480-644-2262 immediately about downed lines.

## Indoor Safety

### Electric Appliances

Electric appliances are an integral part of every household, from a simple electric clock to the microwave oven. These safety tips can help keep all appliances operating safely:

- It's essential to ensure that any appliances you purchase are approved by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or another reputable consumer laboratory.
- Unplug unused appliances and stow cords safely out of reach of pets, young children, or hazardous situations.
- Appliances that generate heat, such as clocks, televisions and computer monitors, should be given several inches of clearance all around for good air circulation and cooling.
- Do not drape clothes, toys or other items over warm or operating appliances.
- Always follow appliance instructions carefully and do not attempt amateur repairs or upgrades.
- Keep all electrical appliances away from water such as sinks, bathtubs, pools, or overhead vents that may drip.
- Do not operate any electrical appliance with wet hands or while standing in water.

### Natural Gas Appliances

To ensure that your natural gas home is always a safe home, we urge customers to become educated consumers. This process begins when you prepare to purchase your new natural gas product and continues when you use energy saving tips.

- Have a qualified industry professional install, inspect, service, repair, and replace if necessary, all gas appliances, connectors, furnaces, vents, flues, chimneys, and gas lines to your home.
- Keep the burners clean on your range to ensure maximum efficiency and safety.
- Never use your stove or oven for heating your home.
- Replace your furnace air filters monthly throughout the heating season.
- If you suspect your furnace may have a leak or a cracked heat exchanger, have the unit professionally serviced to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Make sure your fireplace damper is always open during operation.
- Never operate gasoline powered engines or charcoal grills in closed garages, basements, or buildings.
- Keeps the area surrounding natural gas appliances clear of clutter, flammable objects, and flammable liquids. This includes: gasoline, kerosene, propane or butane bottles and/or cylinders.

- Never use flammable solvents or cleaning agents on or around an operating gas appliance.
- Teach everyone in your household how to identify the smell of natural gas and what to do if they smell gas.

If you smell gas (rotten egg smell), hear the sound of escaping gas (hissing noise), or suspect a line break, leave the area and call 480-644-4277(GASS) or 911. For additional information on natural gas safety, visit [mesaaz.gov/residents/energy-resources](https://mesaaz.gov/residents/energy-resources).

**Make this spring the safest one ever.**