

SUMMER SAFETY MESSAGES

Safe Digging 811

From homeowners working to spruce up their yards, to city contractors making improvements around town, Columbia Gas reminds all customers to call 811 at least two business days prior to digging. The free service identifies the location of underground facilities and can help to prevent underground damages while ensuring homes stay fully connected with critical services. When a call is placed to 811, Columbia Gas and other utilities will visit the dig area and mark the facilities with flags and markings. It's free. It's easy. It's the law.



Keep in mind that calling 811 is only the first step. Once marked, try to avoid digging within five feet of a gas line. Pools, decks, fences, sheds, etc. constructed too close could create challenges if and when it comes time for maintenance on the gas line. Contact Columbia Gas at 1-800-344-4077 with any questions before beginning a large project.

Work Zone Safety

As weather continues to improve, motorists can expect to see an increased number of road construction projects. Columbia Gas reminds all motorists to follow good safety practices in work zones. These tips just might save a life:



- *Expect the unexpected* – Normal speed limits may be reduced; traffic lanes may change; and people may be working on or near the road.
- *Slow down* – Speeding is one of the major causes of work zone crashes.
- *Keep your distance* – Keep a safe distance between you and the car ahead of you, and don't tailgate.
- *Pay attention to signs* – Observe posted signs until you see the one that says you've left the zone.
- *Obey road crew flaggers* – A flagger has the same authority as a regulatory sign, so you can be cited for disobeying his or her directions.
- *Stay alert and minimize distractions* – Dedicate your full attention to the roadway and avoid changing radio stations or using cell phones while driving.

FREE ENERGY AUDIT THIS SUMMER

Normally priced at \$50, Columbia Gas customers can get a Home Energy Audit for FREE when scheduled by August 31. (Certain restrictions apply.)

To schedule, go to ColumbiaGasOhio.com/HomeEnergyAudit or call 877-644-6674 and use promo code: SUMMER PROMO

SUMMER BILL ASSISTANCE

Struggling to keep up with the gas bill? Payment assistance grants are available for income-eligible customers. There are several payment plans open to all customers as well. Visit ColumbiaGasOhio.com or call the Customer Care Center at 1-800-344-4077 to learn more about the different programs that can help get customers back on track.

Additionally, if you know someone who is struggling to pay or falling behind on their bill, please encourage them to reach out to Columbia Gas today. One phone call can help connect them with the services and assistance they need. You can also recommend connecting on Facebook, Twitter or Nextdoor.

LOCATING GAS LINES

From time to time, customers may notice Columbia Gas contractors in and around their neighborhoods using GPS equipment mounted on a tripod to record the locations of natural gas lines within inches. This helps Columbia Gas enhance its emergency response capabilities and also prevents damages typically caused by unsafe digging practices.



The work does not require entry into homes/businesses and natural gas service will not be impacted. Before beginning GPS work in a community, Columbia Gas will provide notice to ensure residents know why surveyors are in the area.

CHARITABLE GIVING

Through its Columbia Cares program, Columbia Gas [contributes](#) time, money and resources each year to local programs and organizations. Key focus areas include safety, community and workforce development, energy education & environment/STEM and hardship assistance.



Examples of recent donations include grants to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio to support the purchase of equipment for the new expanded kitchen and Avon/Avon Lake Community Resource Services in support of Hooks for Hunger 2021 to help diminish the effects of poverty. Columbia Gas thanks all of its nonprofit partners for the incredible work they are doing amidst difficult circumstances.

Any 501(c)(3) interested in learning more about the Columbia Gas grant process should visit columbiagasohio.com/columbiacares