

Subject: We need your help to protect the community and our underground infrastructure

Dear DTE Neighbors

Digging season is here, and as temperatures continue to rise, residents and business owners throughout your community will soon dig into spring with home improvements and construction projects.

We need your help to protect the community and our underground infrastructure. Recently, we've seen a worrisome increase in damage to our underground pipelines. Most often, pipelines are damaged when people begin digging without first calling MISS DIG to have underground utilities marked.

Digging without knowing the precise location of underground utilities can result in **serious injuries, service disruptions,** and costly repairs when gas, electric, communications, water, and sewer lines are damaged.

DTE diligently monitors thousands of miles of natural gas pipelines. We inspect gas delivery systems, both by air and land, to look for evidence of a pipeline leak or damage. Since our natural gas pipelines run underneath roadways and through yards and parking lots in your community, we need your cooperation to prevent future damages.

If you or your contractors are planning to excavate, **please remember to dig safely using four simple steps:**

1. **Contact MISS DIG at 811 or missdig811.org** at least **three business days before** excavating. This organization works with energy and utility companies to identify and mark where utilities are buried. This service is fast, it's free, and it's the law.
2. **Wait until the flags are placed.** Once flags are in position, it is safe to begin excavation projects.
3. **Expose utility lines by hand-digging.** Before using any power equipment, carefully hand-dig where the utility lines are marked to expose them. If you are unable to locate the utility lines, please contact MISS DIG and wait for assistance from the utility company.
4. **Respect the marks. Be aware of all underground utility line locations,** even if you're not working near them. And never drive heavy vehicles or store materials over marked utility lines. If a flag becomes displaced, **DO NOT reposition the flag.** Contact MISS DIG to indicate the utility lines need to be marked again.

Also, **notify DTE Energy** if your digging equipment or tools make ANY contact with our underground pipelines. Minor damage, such as nicks, scratches, cuts, scrapes, dents or gouges, can result in pipeline failure or a major incident in the future if not properly examined soon after the occurrence. Contact DTE Energy before back-filling your excavation.

Learn More About Pipeline Safety

[Sharing responsibility for Natural Gas Pipeline Safety](#)
[Natural Gas Pipeline Safety](#)

Thank you for your partnership.

Stay safe,

The logo for DTE Energy, consisting of the letters "DTE" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

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