



## MSHA's Accident Prevention Program Miner's Tip

Safety and  
Health are  
Values!

### Buried Gas Line Hazards

Category : **General Safety**  
Mine Type: **All Surface Mines**

So you think that gas line is located in the middle  
of the right-of-way and is adequately marked.



**IF YOU BELIEVE THAT, THIS COULD HAPPEN TO YOU !**



Recently, a fatal mining accident occurred when a front-end loader operator was removing material above a coal seam. The loader bucket penetrated a buried 20-inch diameter, high pressure, public utility natural gas transmission line. The loader became engulfed in flames resulting in fatal burns to the operator.

The following precautions are recommended to minimize the potential for accidents when working near underground utility lines:

- The mine operator should have maps which depict the type and location of all public and private utility lines.
- If you can't find a map with the utility line type and location - **ASK FOR IT!**
- When active mining operations are in the vicinity of underground utility markers, call your local One-Call Center or the toll-free National Referral Center.

State Specific One Call contact information can be gained using the following link:

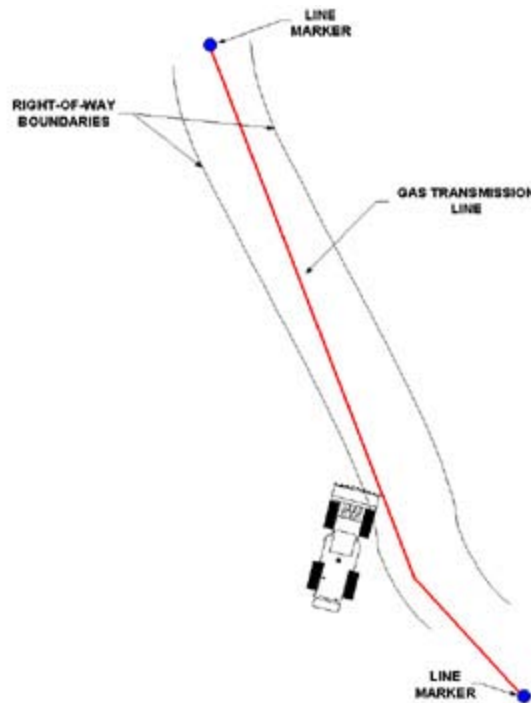
[National Referral Center Phone Number and Direct Link](#)

Additional information concerning safe excavation practices can be obtained at Dig Safely:



As shown below, each curvature in a transmission line may not be adequately identified by line markers to alert a mine operator of the exact location in an active mining area.

**DON'T RISK YOUR LIFE BY ASSUMING  
THE GAS LINE IS IN THE CENTER OF  
THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OR, IN A  
STRAIGHT LINE BETWEEN MARKERS!**



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