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### **Call 811 Before You Dig: It is the Law!**

*Calling 811 Reduces Risk of Damaged Utility Lines by 99 Percent*

**DALLAS** (August 11, 2016) – Did you know that, before you dig, it is required by law to call 811 to have all buried utility lines located and marked? [Atmos Energy](#) wants to thank homeowners and excavators alike for observing the law and keeping our communities safe by always calling 811 before digging.

Since 2008, Atmos Energy has seen a 36 percent increase in requests by the public to have underground natural gas lines marked. Once underground utility lines are marked, it is important to take special care around all line markings by digging by hand.

“The greatest risk to our natural gas pipelines is accidental damage while digging,” said John Paris, president of Atmos Energy’s Mid-Tex division. “Even minor damage, such as a scrape, dent, or crease in a pipeline or its coating, can cause a leak.”

Every time the excavating public calls 811 before digging, the chance of hitting an underground utility line decreases to 99.9 percent. When calling 811, homeowners and contractors are connected to their local one-call center, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. Professional locators are then sent to the digging site to mark the locations of underground utility-owned lines with flags and spray paint, free of charge.

“Atmos Energy located 1.5 million underground natural gas lines in 2015. We appreciate our customers observing this important safety law. Calling 811 is the law in every state that we serve. All excavators call 811 at least three business days before digging on public or private property,” said Paris.

For more information, visit [atmosenergy.com/811](http://atmosenergy.com/811) or [call811.org](http://call811.org).

B-roll is available for media [here](#).

#### **About Atmos Energy**

Atmos Energy Corporation, headquartered in Dallas, is the country's largest natural-gas-only distributor, serving more than 3 million natural gas distribution customers in about 1,400 communities in eight states from the Blue Ridge Mountains in the East to the Rocky Mountains in the West. Atmos Energy manages company-owned natural gas pipeline and storage assets, including one of the largest intrastate natural gas pipeline systems in Texas and also provides natural gas marketing and procurement services to industrial, commercial and municipal customers primarily in the Midwest and Southeast. For more information, visit [www.atmosenergy.com](http://www.atmosenergy.com). Atmos Energy can also be accessed through social media platforms such as [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).



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