

## DOT REQUIREMENTS FOR NATURAL GAS SYSTEMS DETAILING NATURAL GAS SAFETY & AWARENESS

The Department of Transportation has passed the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (PSIA). This act requires natural gas systems to develop and implement a continuing education program to educate the public in several areas of natural gas safety and awareness. There are five areas that need to be addressed.

The first area is the use of the Tennessee One Call System or (call before you dig). Tennessee One Call is used to avoid hitting or damaging any underground gas line or other utilities when digging on your property. This system is very easy to use all you have to do is call **1-800-351-1111** at least three (3) business days before you plan to dig. When you make this call the operator will ask you several questions,

- 1). Your name and phone number.
- 2). The county and city that you are working in.
- 3). The address that you are working at.
- 4). The nearest intersection.
- 5). The type of work that you are doing.

When the operator has ask all their questions they will give you a time and date of when the locate will be completed. Also, they will give you a ticket number. Please write this number down and keep it handy in the event that you damage an underground utility while digging you will be asked for this number. The number contains three important things, the year, the day of the year, and the reference number. An example of a ticket number is as follows:

Ticket Number - 050710981

05 - the calendar year ticket called in

071 - the day of the year ticket called in

0981 - the reference number for that ticket for that day

If you do not complete your digging or excavating within 15 days, you will need to update your locate request by simply calling 1-800-351-1111 again. This time you just need to tell them that you are requesting an update to your locate request. They will ask you for the ticket number and give you the date and time of when the update will be completed and also give you a new ticket number. Remember that these locate requests are only good for 15 days and may need to be updated.

The second area is the unintentional release of natural gas, such as a service line or main line being hit during an excavation. The greatest hazard of a release of natural gas is a fire or explosion.

The third area is the physical indications that a release may have occurred. The most common way of knowing that there has been a release is by the odor. The odorant that is added to the natural gas smells like rotten eggs. Also by sound, natural gas is under pressure in the lines, so if you hear a hissing sound near the gas line it may indicate a release of gas.

The fourth area is the steps to take in the event of a release of natural gas. The first thing to do is to clear the area. Be sure there are no open flames near the release, if it is inside of a building do not operate any electrical switches or telephones.

The fifth is how to report a release of natural gas. When you are clear of the area call our office at 865-475-7911 for Jefferson City or 423-623-3069 for Newport or call 911.

If you ever have any questions on how to call in a locate please contact our office and someone will help you with the call.

Remember it is a law to call for locates if you are going to dig in a right-of-way or where there may be underground utilities.