



August 30, 2013

**Carlos D. Torres**  
Vice President  
Emergency Management

Chief Louis DiMeglio  
New Rochelle Fire Department  
90 Beaufort Place  
New Rochelle, NY 10801

Representative sample of letter

Dear Chief Louis DiMeglio:

Con Edison Company of New York, Inc. wants to inform local emergency officials about the natural gas hazards they may encounter when responding to an emergency and working together to prevent and prepare for natural gas emergencies.

Con Edison's gas system consists of more than 4,300 miles of mains and services in Westchester County, Manhattan, the Bronx, and the first and third wards of Queens. These pipelines carry natural gas to over 1.1 million customers at pressures ranging from ¼ psig to 350 psig. Located underground, this critical underground network quietly, reliably, and efficiently delivers natural gas for household, commercial, and industrial use.

The greatest risk to underground pipelines is accidental damage during excavation. A national 811 "Call Before You Dig" toll-free number has been established to make it easier for people to have local utilities mark the approximate location of their lines **at no charge**. Before any excavation-related activities on public or private property, anyone digging – professional or private homeowner – should call 811.

Damage to transmission lines, which are large volume and high pressure pipelines, can be especially dangerous to the public and emergency personnel. These underground pipelines are vital to the New York City and Westchester utility infrastructure. Detailed maps of transmission pipelines in your area can be obtained from the National Pipeline Mapping System ([www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov)).

Con Edison remains committed to a comprehensive public safety program and has several ways you can help in maintaining the safety and reliability of our gas system.

- Enclosed is our Natural Gas Safety – "What You Need to Know" brochure dated June 2011 for your training program on what Con Edison and the industry are doing to ensure that our most popular fuel remains the safest choice. Additional copies can be ordered by contacting Dennis Connelly at (914) 492-1800.
- Con Edison has prepared a gas hazards DVD on responding to natural gas emergencies, one for New York City Fire Department and one for Westchester County Fire Departments. Please contact Gennaro Vitale at (914) 492-1800 to get the one you need.
- Con Edison is also pleased to offer your group free in-person training. Please contact Dennis Connelly at (914) 492-1800 to set up training.
- You can learn more about what Con Edison does to ensure transmission pipeline safety by reading a summary of our Integrity Management Plan, along with other information concerning gas safety, at [www.coned.com/gassafety](http://www.coned.com/gassafety).

Thank you for working with Con Edison to protect the people in your community and enhancing our partnership in safety.

Sincerely,

Enclosures:

- Natural Gas Safety – "What You Need to Know" dated June 2011

## Call Before You Dig

Dig with care because the slightest scratch, scrape, dent, or gouge in an underground gas pipeline can result in a dangerous leak.

To protect these pipelines, you must call the local one-call center at **811** two to 10 days before you dig or excavate on public or private property. After you call, utility companies will mark the approximate location of their lines at no charge to you.



## Line Markers

Since pipelines are underground, pipeline markers are sometimes used to show their approximate location. These markers display the name and phone number of the pipeline operator, which can be used in case of an emergency.

### Call 811 Before You Dig

**seven days a week, 24 hours a day**

This toll-free call will help protect you, your family, and your neighbors.

## Private Property: What are Your Responsibilities?

### Customer-Owned Service Lines

The property owner is responsible for marking the location, inspecting, and maintaining some underground pipelines, known as customer-owned service lines. For one to three family homes, the property owner is responsible beyond the first inside fitting if the meter is indoors, or the foundation wall if the meter is outdoors. For large residential and commercial buildings, the property owner's responsibility begins at the property line.

## Working Together

Con Edison monitors and inspects its gas system to ensure public safety. Please take an active role in helping us keep our 4,300 miles of underground pipelines safe. Some of these pipelines operate at very high pressures and you should be alert to suspicious individuals or activities around our pipelines. If you see something suspicious, call the police.

### Our Commitment to Safety

To ensure the highest level of safety, service reliability, and security, Con Edison:

- Works with emergency responders and state and local agencies to prevent and prepare for emergencies through training and periodic drills.
- Works closely with communities.
- Uses the latest security and safety technologies and methods.
- Meets or exceeds all federal, state, and local safety regulations for transporting natural gas.
- Constantly examines its system and seeks to improve it through integrity-management programs.
- A summary of these programs can be found at [conEd.com/gassafety](http://conEd.com/gassafety).

Maps of the pipelines can be obtained from the National Pipeline Mapping System, [npms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://npms.phmsa.dot.gov).

### Want to Know More?

Visit [conEd.com/customercentral/safetytip.asp](http://conEd.com/customercentral/safetytip.asp).

The following organizations also offer safety ideas:

- National Call Before You Dig Organization, [call811.com](http://call811.com).
- American Gas Association, [aga.org](http://aga.org).
- Consumer Products Safety Commission, [cpsc.gov](http://cpsc.gov).
- Northeast Gas Association, [northeastgas.org](http://northeastgas.org).



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[www.conEd.com](http://www.conEd.com)

## NATURAL GAS SAFETY




**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**



10% post-consumer waste

June 2011



*We are committed to keeping our customers safe and we respond rapidly to any calls about gas leaks. We work with emergency responders to protect you. But it is important for you and your family to know what to do when you smell, hear, or see gas leaking.*

#### **When you suspect a gas leak you should...**

- Leave your home immediately and take others with you. If outside, get well away from where you suspect the gas is leaking.
- Open windows before you leave if the odor is faint.
- Call us at 1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633) once safely away from the leak. (National Grid customers should call 1-718-643-4050.)
- Tell us if there is also a problem with your electric service.
- Follow directions from emergency responders who are on site.

#### **When you suspect a gas leak you should not...**

Do anything to create a spark that could cause an explosion, such as:

- Light a match
- Turn appliances or lights on or off (including flashlights)
- Use a telephone or cell phone
- Ring a doorbell
- Start a car

#### **Signs of a Gas Leak**

- **Smell** — A distinctive, strong odor similar to rotten eggs.
- **See** — A white cloud, mist, fog, bubbles in standing water, blowing dust, or vegetation that appears to be dead or dying for no reason.
- **Hear** — A roaring, hissing, or whistling sound.

#### **Gas Safety in the Home**

Follow these gas safety rules at home:

- Never use a gas range or oven to heat your home.
- Gas-fired appliances such as stoves or gas dryers that are attached to a flexible connector should only be moved or replaced by professionals. Old flexible connectors should be replaced and not reused because they may become brittle over time and develop small cracks, which leak enough gas to reach a hazardous level.
- Don't step, sit, lean, or place any objects on flexible connectors attached to appliances.
- To prevent combustible gases from entering a building through sewer lines, make sure that indoor sewer-line caps are intact and securely attached.
- Keep cleaning products, gasoline, paints, and other combustible materials away from gas appliances.
- Don't let children play near gas appliances.
- Keep the path and area around the gas meter clear so it can be reached in case of an emergency.
- Have your heating and venting system serviced regularly, and don't let snow, ice, leaves, or other debris block the vents and exhaust ducts.
- Don't enclose your gas meter. Remove snow and ice from around your gas meter and associated piping by using a brush instead of a shovel.

#### **Protect Yourself Against Carbon Monoxide**

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas that can cause serious illness or death if inhaled in large concentrations for even a short period of time. Every home has fuel-burning appliances that can produce CO if they are not working properly. Symptoms of CO poisoning include headaches, tightness of chest, dizziness, nausea, and fatigue.

- If you suspect CO poisoning, immediately evacuate the premises and call 911.
- Install CO detectors in your home. If you use a battery-operated or plug-in detector with battery backup, check the batteries every month and replace the batteries once a year.
- If the CO alarm sounds, but no one is showing symptoms of CO poisoning, open windows, turn off all potential CO sources, and leave. Have a qualified technician investigate the source of the CO and inspect your appliances, detector, and chimneys to make sure they are operating correctly.
- All heating systems, vents, chimneys, and flues should be inspected and cleaned annually by a qualified technician.
- Be sure appliances, including portable generators, are properly adjusted and working to manufacturer's specifications and local building codes.
- Keep your furnace or boiler's air intake supply clear of obstructions. If your equipment is in a separate room, leave the door open or make sure it is louvered or has adequately sized ventilating grills.
- Do not use kerosene or propane auxiliary heaters indoors or in any enclosed space.
- Never use a gas range or oven to heat your home.
- Barbecue grills and portable generators should be used only outdoors. Do not use them in an enclosed porch or garage.
- Never leave your car, lawn mower, snow blower, or portable generator running in an enclosed space or in a garage or shed, even if the door is open.