

**Know what's below.  
Call 811 before you dig.**

## It's Free & Required by Law

*Damage to underground infrastructure can result in costly repairs, injury, property damage, service disruptions, project delays, and state and federal fines. Regardless of the size or scope of your project, before you begin any digging, grading, or excavating, you're required by law to have underground infrastructure marked.*

Following the easy steps below shows you care to protect yourself, your family and your community:

**C** **CALL 811** at least three business days before any digging begins to submit a location request.

**A** **ALLOW** the required time (72 hours) for marking or proceed when advised of clearance.

**R** **RESPECT** the marks as indicated by the APWA Uniform Color Code.

**E** **EXCAVATE** or dig carefully. Use hand tools 24" on either side of the locate marks (tolerance zone) to expose the exact location of infrastructure.

### APWA Uniform Color Codes

White	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed Excavation
Pink	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary Survey Markings
Red	<input type="checkbox"/>	Electric, Cables, Conduit, or Lighting Cables
Yellow	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum, or Gaseous Materials
Orange	<input type="checkbox"/>	Communications, Alarm/Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit
Blue	<input type="checkbox"/>	Potable Water
Purple	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation and Slurry Lines
Green	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sewer, Drain Lines

### Detecting Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas formed when fuels like charcoal, coal, gasoline, kerosene, natural gas, oil, propane, and wood are burned without a sufficient supply of air. It can be present in your home due to improperly working fuel-burning appliances, improper installation or venting, poor maintenance, or other appliance misuse.

To help protect you and your family from carbon monoxide, have carbon monoxide detectors in your home and check to make sure they're working properly. Other prevention measures include scheduling annual maintenance checks by qualified technicians for your fuel-burning appliances and having your fireplace/chimney checked annually. The best CO prevention is a propane gas safety inspection performed by a trained service technician. To schedule an inspection by a Jackson Energy Authority trained service technician, please call 731-422-7500.

### Signs of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Exposure to carbon monoxide can cause symptoms similar to the flu. Warning signs include headache, nausea or vomiting, dizziness and disorientation, muscle weakness or fatigue. If the flu-like symptoms are not accompanied by fever, or if everyone in the house is ill, or if the symptoms disappear when you leave the house, you may have a carbon monoxide problem.

[www.jaxenergy.com/gassafety](http://www.jaxenergy.com/gassafety)

If you disturb or expose a gas line, or damage the pipe coating of a gas line, call 731-422-7500.

If you damage a gas line and it creates a situation where life or property is threatened, or fumes or gas is escaping:

- Stop digging and leave the equipment in place
- Evacuate the area and remain upwind at a safe distance
- Call 911 and Jackson Energy Authority



Jackson Energy Authority  
Real People. Real Service.

731.422.7500 | [www.jaxenergy.com](http://www.jaxenergy.com)

*Jackson Energy Authority is an equal opportunity employer.*



## Propane Gas Safety

### Tips to Know, Use, & Share



*Stay safe and smart around propane gas by recognizing signs, reporting gas odors or leaks promptly, and preventing damage to lines and tanks.*

**Read and follow** the safety instructions in this pamphlet to reduce the risk of fire, explosion, and serious injury or death.

**Share** this information with everyone else in your home.

**Keep** this pamphlet or to access it online, go to [www.jaxenergy.com/gassafety](http://www.jaxenergy.com/gassafety).



## Distribution and Characteristics

Propane, also referred to as liquefied petroleum gas or LPG, is a gas that's compressed and stored as a liquid. It's primarily a byproduct of domestic natural gas processing and some crude oil refinement. Similar to natural gas, it's nontoxic, colorless and virtually odorless (it also has odorant added so that it can be detected by smell).



Jackson Energy Authority/ProGas supplies propane gas to customers in Jackson and Madison County. It is safely transported via our delivery trucks. Our highly-trained servicemen install and maintain your tank on a regular basis.

### Practice Safety First

Always keep gas appliances, vents, and chimneys clear of debris and blockages. Do not store flammable liquids near gas appliances. An active pilot light on an appliance can provide an ignition source for unseen vapors from flammable liquids like gasoline or kerosene. The vapors are heavier than air and can move along the floor away from the original source by air currents coming from other rooms. To get a pilot light checked or gas appliance safety inspection scheduled, call 731-422-7500 to make an appointment.



*Propane gas is an environmentally friendly fuel that provides a source for dependable heat, cooking, drying, warmth, and value for homes, businesses and industries. While we deliver propane as safely, reliably, and efficiently as possible, there are precautions everyone can take to help keep you and your family safe around propane gas.*

## Indicators of a Gas Leak

### The Smell of Propane Gas

Since propane gas has no smell in its natural state, an odorant that resembles the smell of rotten eggs (called Mercaptan) is added to help make leak detection easier. The odor is a warning indicator that propane gas may be present and if ignited could result in personal injury or property damage.

### Signs of a Leak

Propane gas leaks are extremely rare and can be caused by excavation damage, material defects, corrosion, worker error or events of nature. Despite the fact that an odorant is added, your sense of smell should not be the only way to detect gas leaks. The best way to recognize leaks is by using your sense of sight, smell, and hearing.



**LOOK FOR:** Persistent bubbling in dirt or standing water, dirt blowing into the air, frost ball in an open field, dead/dying or discolored vegetation, sinkholes or exposed pipes.



**SMELL FOR:** Strong, unusual odor resembling rotten eggs, sulfur, a skunk, or a dead animal.



**LISTEN FOR:** Hissing, roaring, or whistling



**UNUSUAL USAGE:** If you are using more gas than you expect, there may be a leak.

### You May Not Smell a Gas Leak

Some reasons for not smelling a propane gas leak are the odor does not get to your nose. It may be present in an area where there are no people or because it is heavier than air, it may settle near the floor.

Other reasons can include your ability to smell the odor is reduced. This can include:

- Having a cold, allergies, or other medical condition.
- Tobacco, alcohol, or drug use.
- Older adults.
- Being asleep.
- Odor fatigue.
- The presence of other strong odors.
- The propane has lost its odor. The odor that is added can sometimes be absorbed by substances such as soil, water, or rust, making it more difficult to smell.

You can install a propane gas detector which should identify leaks you do not smell. Propane gas detectors are different from smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, although some combination detectors are available.

## If You Smell Gas or Suspect a Leak

*A propane gas leak is an emergency. It can result in fire and explosion. Be prepared to respond.*

### 1 EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY

- **Remain calm and immediately evacuate** the facility, area (including pets) vehicle, or equipment.
- If inside a facility, move outside away from and upwind of the suspected smell or leak.
- If outside, move away from and upwind of the suspected smell or leak.

### 2 AVOID CREATING SPARKS

- DO NOT smoke, strike a match or lighter, or light a candle.
- DO NOT light a candle or use a flashlight.
- DO NOT use a telephone or cell phone; operate lights or electric switches; use a flashlight; pull plugs from outlets; or anything that could cause a spark.
- DO NOT start or restart motor vehicles or electrical equipment in the area.
- DO NOT re-enter a building or the suspected area until cleared by the proper authorities.

### 3 STAY AWAY AND REPORT THE LEAK

In a **SAFE PLACE FAR AWAY FROM THE SMELL OR SUSPECTED LEAK, CALL JACKSON ENERGY AUTHORITY at 731-422-7500 or 911.**

Provide specific details on the call, such as address, location or any construction activity going on in the area,

- DO NOT send messages via text, email, or social media about the leak or smell.
- DO NOT assume someone else has called about the leak or smell.
- **Do Not Attempt to Find the Source or Fix the Suspected Leak**
- DO NOT try to shut off any propane gas valves or gas appliances - leave that to the experts.



### The Proper Flame

A properly burning flame on gas appliances should be blue in color, sometimes with a tiny tip of yellow, with a little light blue triangle at the center. An orange or yellow flame indicates an improper ratio of oxygen for combustion. Improper combustion could cause too much carbon monoxide (CO) to be produced so it is imperative for a qualified professional to check.