




Generator Safety

When the lights go out, generators are a convenient source of emergency power. However, generators produce carbon monoxide (CO) which can cause death.

Safety Tips

 If using a portable generator, have battery-operated or battery back-up CO alarms in the home.

 Use the proper outlets (three prongs). Do not overload the generator.

 Never connect generators to household wiring without installing a transfer switch. A transfer switch helps to keep electricity traveling in the correct direction and helps protect utility workers from electrocution.



Location and Operation

- Only use generators outdoors. Never use in an attached garage.
- Keep the generator at least 20 feet from doors, windows, and vent openings.
- Never use as a permanent source of electricity.
- Protect the generator from rain or flooding.
- Before refueling, shut down the generator and allow it to cool.
- Use only the recommended fuel.



NATURAL GAS SAFETY

Natural gas is flammable and easily ignites when it comes into contact with a spark or flame, but it is a safe and efficient source of energy when used properly.

Maintain Gas Appliances

Have gas appliances, fuel-burning heating equipment, and chimneys inspected per the manufacturer's instructions. Routinely check that CO alarms are installed and working properly.



Common sources for carbon monoxide include:

- furnaces
- boilers
- gas stoves
- gas ovens
- gas and wood fireplaces
- water heaters
- clothes dryers
- power generators
- motor vehicles
- power tools
- lawn equipment

Be Aware

Uprooted trees can cause natural gas leaks. Root systems can entangle buried pipelines, and when a tree is blown over, they may damage the pipe, resulting in a gas leak.

If you detect a sign of a natural gas leak, such as the smell of rotten eggs, leave the area immediately and call **9-1-1**.

Gas Leak Warning Signs:

- SOUND – Blowing or hissing
- SIGHT – Wet, flooded, or bubbling ground
- SMELL – Rotten egg smell

Know what is below . . .

Call or Click Before You Dig

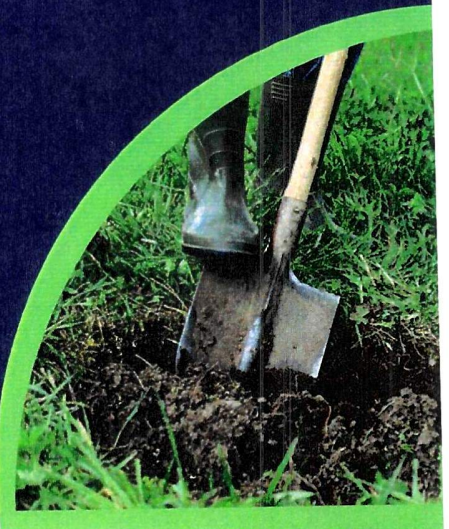
To avoid accidentally digging into an underground utility line during a digging project, call **8-1-1** (or click at SC811.com) three to 12 working days before digging to request a "Homeowner Ticket."

Notifying SC811 of your planned excavation will help prevent damages that may result in fines, utility service interruption, and injury – even death.

DID YOU KNOW?

An underground utility line is damaged every nine minutes because a call to 811 is not made before digging.

**A call or click to 811
is fast, free, and it's the law!**

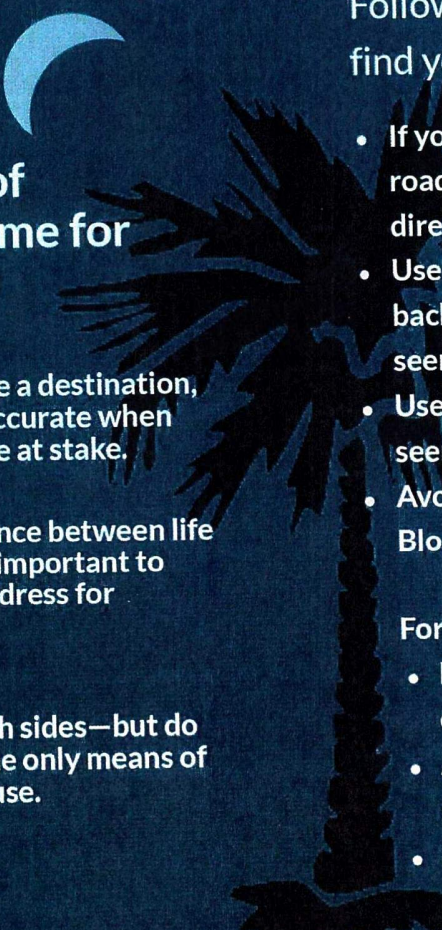


FIRE SAFE
South Carolina
A COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM



HOME ADDRESS IDENTIFICATION

CAN FIRST RESPONDERS
FIND YOUR HOME IN THE
EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY?



The Importance of Marking your Home for First Responders

GPS is a great tool to locate a destination, however, it is not always accurate when minutes count and lives are at stake.

Time can mean the difference between life and death. Therefore, it is important to display a visible, legible address for emergency responders.

Mark your mailbox on both sides—but do not use your mailbox as the only means of identification for your house.

* Before you make any changes, contact your local fire department/ fire marshal for Address Identification ordinances that may apply in your area.

What You Can Do to Help

Follow these tips to help first responders find your home in an emergency:

- If your address is on a yard sign or mailbox near the roadside, post the number so it is visible from both directions of travel.
- Use large reflective or illuminated numbers or background. This allows your address to be clearly seen after sunset.
- Use large numbers and make sure signage can be seen from all directions.
- Avoid using cursive-style words, use numbers only. Block numbers are the easiest to read.

For address numbers placed on the house:

- Place numbers near the front door within a radius of the porch light and above eye level.
- Avoid placing numbers away from the front door, such as above garage doors.
- Standing at the edge of the road and facing your house, hold your thumb up covering the numbers on your house. Do the numbers equal the size of your thumbnail? At night and in an emergency, the “rule of thumb” can be the difference in seconds to minutes.