

Howard L. McKinnon, Town Manager
Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk

P.O. Box 1068
Havana, Florida 32333-1068
Phone: 850/539-2820



May 30, 2014

RECEIVED

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S
OFFICE

Mr. Robert Presnell
Gadsden County Manager
P. O. Box 1799
Quincy, FL 32353

Dear Mr. Presnell:

The Town of Havana in accordance with federal regulations is required to periodically communicate with its customers, constituents, government leaders and public safety personnel about our system's purpose, reliability, associated hazards, and damage prevention, as well as emergency preparedness measures.

Demand for natural gas in the United States continues to grow. Residential consumers as well as commercial, industrial and electric generation customers know that it's safe, reliable and efficient. Today nearly three out of five U.S. homes are heated with natural gas. Domestically produced natural gas is transported to 160 million customers through a 1.6 million mile pipeline system, and in our community Town of Havana maintains the pipeline infrastructure that serves their more than 550 customers.

Main gas lines branch into household service lines. The pipes are typically made of "caution yellow" plastic or tar-coated steel which helps prevent corrosion. As an industry steel pipes are being replaced with the more durable plastic piping. The main lines are typically 2-inches in diameter and are located roughly two-feet below the surface, while service lines are typically half-inch to three-quarter inch in diameter and buried 12 to 18 inches below the surface.

This is way we work to educate our customer, residents and contractors about the importance of complying with the national "Call Before You Dig" requirements. When citizens or contractors consider digging or moving earth, they must simply call 1-800-4322-4770 at least two days prior to their excavation. Sunshine State One call locates all buried utility lines on the property, in order to prevent a potentially hazardous condition. In 2004, the Federal Office of Pipeline Safety recorded 48 cases of third party excavation damage to distribution lines nationwide resulting in more than \$10 million dollars worth of property damage and four injuries.

In addition, our education efforts include leak recognition and response. We explain to our constituents that natural gas is a colorless, odorless gas; however, a chemical that smells like rotten eggs is added to help detect a possible leak. If the smell is present, we remind them to leave the area immediately, call 9-1-1 or our system at 850/539-2820 or after hours at 850/539-2800 from a neighboring home or business. We go on to explain the hazard of turning on or off any switches in the home or the use of a flashlight or phone in the present of the gas smell can create an electric spark that could ignite the gas and cause an explosion.

We welcome the opportunity to further discuss our efforts to keep our various constituent groups apprised of our safety measures and response plans, and we appreciate your support in providing the highest level of service to our community. To document the effectiveness of the Public Awareness Plan, we have enclosed a survey for you to complete and return in the self-addressed stamped envelope. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

For additional information regarding this public awareness message, please contact Town of Havana at 850/539-2820.

Sincerely,

Howard L. McKinnon
Town Manager

Town of Havana - 2014 Public Awareness Plan

NOTE: *Please complete this survey and return in the self-addressed envelope at your earliest convenience. Thanks!*

"PUBLIC OFFICIALS"

Name: _____

Date: _____

Do you understand what natural gas smells like?

Are you aware of the potential hazards of leaking natural gas?

Do you understand how to ***SAFELY*** work with the utility in an emergency?

Do you know the day and night contact phone number to call?

Do you know how to contact the utility office for additional information?

Do you know to ***call 811*** before digging?

Are you a current Town of Havana customer?

Comments:

Survey completed by: _____