

pilotLight

YOUR natural gas newsletter from Jo-Carroll Energy

Affordable. Reliable.

... Energy for your home.

Make a call to 811 a part of your springtime plans

With the snow melted and the ground ready for planting, eager homeowners like you are gearing up to start those outdoor projects. Remember, before you reach for that shovel to start digging you need to call 811 to ensure that your buried utility lines--including natural gas--are marked.

April is recognized as Safe Digging Month, and we want to remind you that our land is made up of a complex underground infrastructure of pipelines, wires and cables.

Striking an underground utility line while digging can cause harm to you or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially result in fines and repair costs. A call must be placed to 811 before **every** digging project, from simple landscaping projects like planting trees or shrubs to building a deck or installing a rural mailbox.

Every eight minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811.



DID YOU KNOW there is an underground natural gas pipeline near you?

Natural gas pipeline markers containing contact phone and emergency information indicate the presence of underground utilities but may not be posted in many areas throughout the system. Most pipeline accidents occur when individuals or companies are not aware

of the location of buried utilities. Natural gas pipeline markers are generally located at road, railway and river crossing and along fence lines and property boundaries, but pipelines do not always run in a straight line and markers may not be present in certain areas.

It is very important to **CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG.**

Safety takes teamwork ... call before you dig!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- One free, simple phone call to 811 makes it easy for JULIE (the state one-call center) to notify all appropriate utility companies of your intent to dig.
- Call at least 48 hours prior to digging.
- When you call, you'll be asked for the location and description of your dig.
- JULIE will notify affected utility companies, who will then send a professional locator to the proposed dig site to mark the approximately location of lines
- Once lines are properly marked, roll up those sleeves and carefully dig around the marked areas.



Jo-Carroll Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®

(800) 858-5522

Emergencies and outages call

800.927.5254





The Sabula station

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

In the past year, your natural gas department

- ✓ Replaced more than 16,000 feet of steel natural gas main with plastic main
 - Savanna 2,800
 - Thomson 2,800
 - Erie 5,600
 - Fulton 4,900
- ✓ Constructed a new regulator station in Jackson Co., Iowa and a new rectifier in Savanna.
- ✓ Installed two system odorizers
- ✓ Established the first service to a field irrigation unit
- ✓ Provided maintenance on all system cathodics
- ✓ Painted more than 200 member sets
- ✓ Inspected all system valves and public buildings
- ✓ Inspected 53 miles of gas transmission lines and 100 miles of distribution lines
- ✓ Inspected all regulator stations and the submarine distribution pipeline from Iowa

Natural gas rate increase

In February, Jo-Carroll Energy natural gas members should have received information about an increase in the cooperative's residential/agriculture and commercial natural gas rates.

This change, part of a three-year plan, takes effect in April and will be reflected in bills payable in May. This is the first increase in natural gas rates since 2009. Members paying either the residential and farm rate or the general service (commercial or retail) rate will see a small increase.

RATE	CURRENT*	CURRENT*
43, General Service, commercial or retail	\$0.216	\$0.22
42, Residential and Farm	\$0.272	\$0.29

*Per therm

A recent cost of service study conducted for Jo-Carroll Energy indicated changes in the rate structure were necessary. Factors driving the increase include system maintenance as well as increasing regulatory requirements.

Upgrades to the natural gas distribution lines and modernization of infrastructure are necessary to enhance safety and service reliability of the natural gas system.

THE NATURAL CHOICE IS ALSO A SMART CHOICE WITH OUR INCENTIVES!

Efficient, reliable, clean natural gas has always been a good idea, and right now it's a smart choice. Our 2013 natural gas incentive program offers members a variety of rebates:

- Install a new natural gas furnace or boiler and receive a \$125 incentive. Switch to natural gas from propane, fuel oil or electricity provided by another utility to be eligible for an additional incentive of \$125. (AFUE must be greater than or equal to 95 percent.)
- Purchase one of the following and receive a \$50 incentive
 - Natural gas water heater (energy factor greater than .67)
 - Natural gas stove
 - Natural gas dryer
- Fuel Switching - Receive a \$25 rebate (per appliance) for switching your water heater, stove or dryer from propane fuel oil or electricity provided by another utility.

Complete information at www.jocarroll.com



Staying safe!

Nothing is more important to Jo-Carroll Energy than the safety of our members and the communities we serve. Because natural gas is odorless, an odor that smells like rotten eggs is added to our natural gas to help detect even the smallest leaks should they occur.

What to do if you smell gas:

- **LEAVE** the area immediately.
- **CALL** Jo-Carroll Energy at **800.927.5254** from a neighboring home or business.
- **NEVER** turn switches on or off or use a flashlight or phone in the presence of the gas smell, because an electric spark could ignite the gas, causing an explosion.

