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News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## PHMSA, Public Safety Officials & Washington Gas to Hold Public Safety Demo about Pipelines on Friday

*Uses August 11 to promote national, toll-free number*

WASHINGTON – There are **2.6 million miles of pipelines** in our nation, and **one-third of all major pipeline accidents** are caused by someone digging and hitting a pipeline by mistake, which can be fatal and cause major property damage. Learn firsthand **the dangers of digging and hitting a pipeline** during a **pipeline safety demonstration** at Washington Gas' [Pipetown](#) training facility in Springfield, Va., **Friday, August 10, 2012 at 10 a.m.**

The Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Washington Gas Company and [Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department](#) will take part in the exercise to show how first responders and utility companies work side-by-side responding to a pipeline rupture.

The demo is being held to **heighten awareness of the toll-free Call Before You Dig hotline, 811**. Saturday, **August 11 is national 811 day**. Backyard gardeners and contractors alike should call 811 **two days** before starting any project that involves digging.

- WHO:** PHMSA Administrator [Cynthia Quarterman](#)  
Washington Gas Vice President of Operations [Doug Staebler](#)
- WHAT:** 8-1-1 day press conference and emergency response demonstration
- WHERE:** Washington Gas HQ  
Pipetown Training Facility  
6801 Industrial Road  
Springfield, VA 22151
- WHEN:** Friday, August 10, 2012  
10 a.m. (weather permitting)

*The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration develops and enforces regulations for the safe, reliable, and environmentally sound operation of the nation's 2.6 million mile pipeline transportation system and the nearly 1 million daily shipments of hazardous materials by land, sea, and air. Please visit <http://phmsa.dot.gov> for more information.*

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