



---

## ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 03/17/16

MEDIA CONTACT: Angie Holdsworth (602) 542-0844

### **Bill Signed in to Law Adds More Safety to Commission's Pipeline Safety Regulations Senate Bill 1163 Require that Damage to Underground Utility Lines be Reported to 911**

(Phoenix) Governor Doug Ducey signed a bill into law that gives extra safety precautions to existing Commission regulations concerning damage to underground utility lines.

The new law, SB1163 sponsored by Senator John Kavanagh, requires the person responsible for damage to notify 911 if the damage results in release of hazardous gases or liquids. Prior to this Bill, 911 notification was not required if someone hit an underground gas line while digging.

"In a case where there is damage of this kind, it is critical for quick action to maintain the public's safety," said Commission Pipeline Safety Director Robert Miller. "This is something that just makes good sense."

Current law requires homeowners and contractors contact Arizona 811 (formerly Blue Stake) prior to digging. Calling 811 before digging will give utilities time to come to the property and mark where their lines run to avoid damage. Several utility lines including gas, cable, and electric run underground. Hitting one can result in serious injury or death. The new law requiring emergency personnel be notified in gas line damage greatly reduces the chances for injury or long term outages.

For questions when digging or excavating, contact Arizona Corporation Commission's Pipeline Safety Division at <http://www.azcc.gov/divisions/Safety/> or (602) 262-5601 or <http://www.az811.com>.