

## Hand Exposure

It is important to safely hand-expose your gas line when it is time to start doing the work and if you are working within 1 metre of either side of the locate marks. Gas lines can be buried from a few inches to more than a metre deep. The amount of cover over a gas line can be changed as structures are built, soil is added or removed, and grades are adjusted over time.



**Never assume you “know” where the gas line is without current locates and being able to see the exposed line!**

Gas lines have been damaged while auguring/digging in fence posts, adjusting grades, planting trees, digging in ponds and pools, removing trees and roots, driving in landscape stakes or stakes for concrete work, anchoring supports for decks and swing sets.

When hand exposing the gas line – dig carefully! Many gas lines are polyethylene plastic and can be easily damaged or severed with a shovel which will cause gas to escape under pressure.

## What do I do if I hit a gas line?

1. Stop work
2. Shut off any machinery and all sources of ignition
3. Call the Gas Dept Emergency Line at 403-529-8191
4. Do not attempt to repair the leak or stop the gas
5. Clear people away from the area



## Gas Meter Safety

- Make sure your gas meter is visible and accessible at all times
- Do not chain bikes or dogs to your meter set – this can cause damage to the equipment
- Do not enclose or alter your meter set in anyway
- Keep snow and ice clear of the meter set

Customers will be responsible for the relocation of their gas service or meter in the event of a safety conflict that they have caused.

**If you have any questions** – please contact Gas Distribution at 403-529-8190 and we'll be happy to assist you!



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This pamphlet is produced by the City of Medicine Hat Gas Distribution Department. This pamphlet has no legal status and cannot be used as an official interpretation of the various codes and regulations currently in effect. Users are advised to contact the department directly for assistance as the City of Medicine Hat accepts no responsibility to persons relying solely on this information.

# LANDSCAPING AND DEVELOPING YOUR YARD AND GAS MAINS



## Know Your Property: Locates & UROW's

Locates are an important part of the planning process, you'll learn where and what utilities are located on your property. Locates are done free of charge but do require a couple of days notice to get them. Locates will help you to plan where to situate buildings, sheds, pools, fences etc. Knowing where your utilities are before you dig will also help you to avoid hitting the lines which can result in utility repair costs, property damage, serious injury and even death.

### CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

Call for free utility locates at least two working days in advance of the planned work.

**Electric and Gas** (City of Medicine Hat)  
1-800-242-3447

**Sewer and Water** (City of Medicine Hat)  
1-403-529-8176

**Sewer and Water** (Town of Redcliff)  
1-403-548-9253

**Shaw**  
1-866-DIG-SHAW (1-866-344-7429)

**Telus**  
1-800-242-3447

It is up to **YOU** to contact all other utilities

Locates expire after 14 days – so check that they are still valid before starting to work or call to get the locate marks refreshed.

You will also want to check if there is a utility right-of-way (UROW) located on your property. A UROW contains utilities such as gas, water, sewer, electric, phone and cable TV. The utility companies will need to have free and clear access to the lines located in the UROW for future replacement, maintenance and repair.

## Planning

Once you know where your utilities are, you can begin the project's planning and placement process. Here are some guidelines to keep in mind:

- Decks
- Hot Tubs/ Pools/ Ponds
- Sheds/ Accessory Buildings
- Fire Pits
- Garages/ Buildings
- Ponds

All of these structures make it difficult to access and maintain your gas line and cause safety hazards.

The following structures cannot be built or installed over top of, or encroach into a utility right-of-way:

- Decks
- Hot Tubs/ Pools/ Ponds
- Sheds/ Accessory Buildings
- Trees/ Shrubs
- Garages/ Buildings

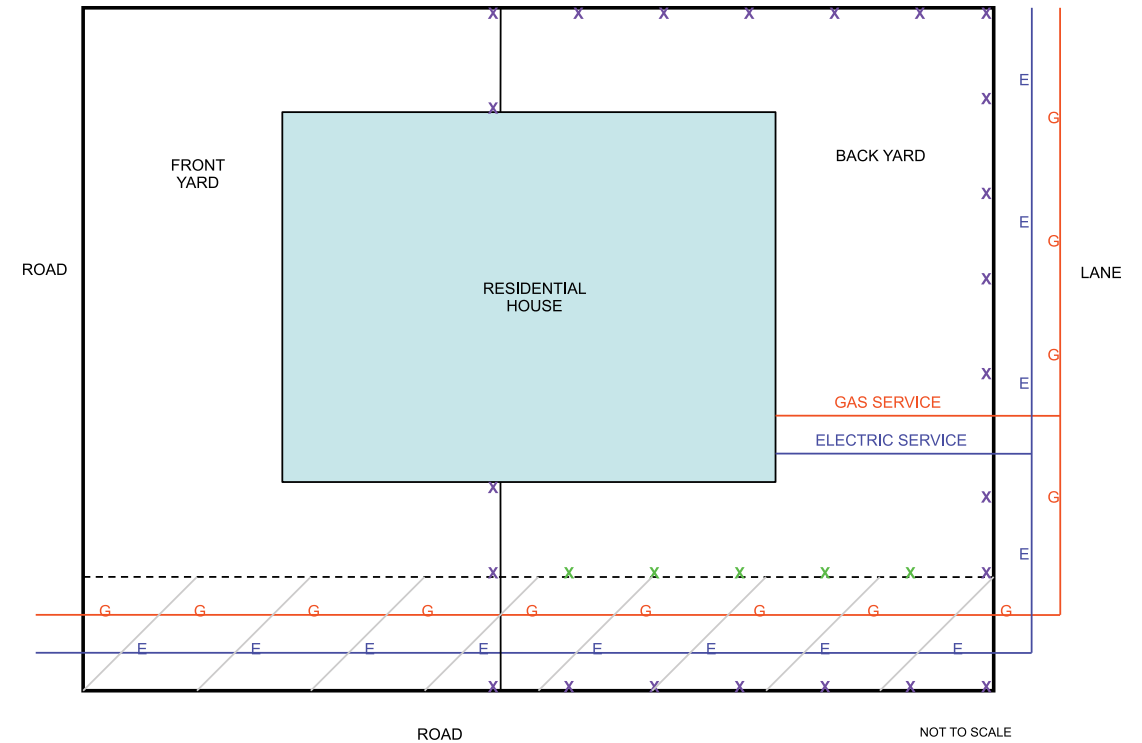
Retaining walls and fences are not allowed on City property or utility rights-of-ways. This does not mean you cannot fence your yard – just that some planning needs to be done to ensure accessibility and safety of the underground utilities. You may need to adjust fence post locations or have longer or removable spans to accommodate the buried facilities. The diagram shows some examples of how to plan your fence around existing utilities.

Trees/ Shrubs should maintain a minimum of 1 metre separation from the locate marks and cannot be located within a UROW. Tree roots spread out under the ground and can grow into and around the buried utility causing damage. If the buried utility is ever replaced, it is unlikely the tree will survive.

Services and meters can be relocated to accommodate the placement of the structures you want to develop in your yard. The costs of the relocation will be the responsibility of the homeowner. Call the appropriate department to inquire on costs, feasibility and timelines.

## Landscaping or redeveloping your yard is an exciting project.

With some pre-planning and taking into consideration the utilities that service your home, you can avoid potential accidents and future frustrations due to utility conflicts.



### LEGEND

- PROPERTY LINE
- G GAS MAIN
- E ELECTRIC CABLE
- ▨ UTILITY RIGHT OF WAY (UROW)
- X FENCE POST - OPTION A
- x FENCE POST - OPTION B

### NOTES:

1. A utility right-of-way (UROW) can contain underground facilities such as gas, electric, telephone and cable. Typically UROW's are 3.5m wide.
2. Fence posts should be spaced at least 1m away from the service lines.
3. Fence Post – Option A: Fence along the property line. NO posts can be located within the UROW (i.e. posts on each side, but not in the middle). Fence spans across the UROW should be removable to allow for machinery access to the UROW.
4. Fence Post – Option B: Fence along the edge of the UROW.
5. Check where the exact location of the property line is.