

## **Sensus Partners with Common Ground Alliance to Promote Nationwide “Call 811 Before You Dig” Safety Program**

*Sensus residential gas meters will display Call 811 safety message*

**RALEIGH, N.C.** (May 24, 2011) [Sensus](#) is partnering with the national [Common Ground Alliance](#) (CGA) and state one-call centers across the country to promote the ongoing “[Call 811 Before You Dig](#)” safety campaign. Beginning in August, Sensus residential natural [gas meters](#) will be equipped with a prominent “Call 811” decal.

The Call 811 program promotes a national, federally-mandated number created to protect citizens from unintentionally damaging underground utility lines while digging for projects. By calling 811 and connecting with one-call centers in each state, homeowners and professional excavators can have underground utility lines marked at no cost, preventing injury, death or damage to lines.

Through its involvement in this campaign, Sensus is demonstrating its commitment to safety by helping to educate homeowners and remind professional excavators of the importance of locating underground utility lines to avoid inadvertently damaging them and risking injury. Because Sensus is a leading residential gas meter manufacturer in North America, this endeavor will help gas utilities meet industry 811 public awareness requirements.

“Sensus is the first meter manufacturer to aggressively join the effort to educate consumers about the dangers of digging around underground utility lines in general and gas pipelines in particular,” said Bob Kipp, president of CGA. “Gas meters are typically located in easily visible areas near utility lines, and will serve as a frequent reminder that safe excavation is just one phone call away.”

Each year, homeowners and professional excavators are injured or cause infrastructure damage in preventable incidents related to underground utility lines,” said Chris Wykle, director of gas marketing for Sensus. “If our meter decal program drives just one additional call to an 811 center that avoids an incident, our program will be a success.”

According to the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) within the U. S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, from 2008 to 2010 natural gas

distribution companies across the nation reported 68 pipeline incidents, 27 fatalities, 143 injuries and more than \$19 million in property damage.

The CGA, created in 2000 as the result of a U.S. Department of Transportation study, is the leading association committed to working with industry stakeholders to prevent damage to underground utility infrastructure and ensure public safety and environmental protection.

### **About CGA**

Established in 2000, CGA is a member-driven association of 1,400 individuals, organizations and sponsors that have a common goal of saving lives and preventing damage to North American underground infrastructure by promoting effective damage prevention practices. CGA has established itself as the leading organization in an effort to reduce damages to underground facilities in North America through shared responsibility among all stakeholders. For more information, visit CGA online at [www.commongroundalliance.com](http://www.commongroundalliance.com).

### **About Sensus**

Sensus is a leading utility infrastructure company offering smart meters, communication systems, software and services for the electric, gas, and water industries. Sensus technology helps utilities drive operational efficiency and customer engagement with applications that include advanced meter reading, data acquisition, demand response, distribution automation, home area networking and outdoor lighting control. Customers worldwide trust the innovation, quality and reliability of Sensus solutions for the intelligent use and conservation of energy and water. Learn more at [www.sensus.com](http://www.sensus.com).

To follow Twitter updates from Sensus, please visit <http://twitter.com/sensusmartgrid>.

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