



Gone BANANAS!

Directions: Visit [Kids - STUDENTS/Protect Your Noggin](#) and scroll down to the Natural Gas Safety section. Watch the two videos on the right-hand side about natural gas, and then complete the following activity. Use directions from the parent guide below.

- 1. How do natural gas, electricity, water, cable and telephone get to your house?**
- 2. What does the banana represent?**
- 3. What do the spoon and knife represent?**
- 4. What happened when you hit the spoon into the banana?**
- 5. What happened when you dug into the banana with the knife?**
- 6. What would happen if someone was digging and hit a natural gas pipe?**

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(Parent guide)

Materials

- One ripe banana with the ends cut off
- Plastic spoon
- Plastic knife

Directions

1. Explain how the banana is like an underground natural gas pipe. The peel, yellow like the pipes, keeps natural gas from escaping.
2. Explain that sometimes people dig and hit natural gas pipes with their tools.
3. Have child pick up spoon. Tell him/her this is his/her shovel. Have him/her dig into the gas pipe and record what happens.
4. Next have child pick up his/her knife. Tell him/her this is his/her backhoe (a large machine used for big digging projects). Have him/her dig into the gas pipe and record what happens.
5. Have child examine his/her gas pipe. Talk about how when the pipe (banana peel) is damaged, the gas (banana fruit) can get out, causing a fire or explosion. Even small damage, like the spoon, can let natural gas escape.
6. Explain that before digging it's important to always call MISS DIG at 8-1-1 to avoid hitting natural gas pipes, underground wires, or other utilities. Calling 8-1-1 is free and only takes three days.