

Save this information



In the event of an emergency, call!

If you know or suspect an emergency involving any of the following pipelines

Florida Gas Transmission
Midwestern Gas Transmission
Northern Natural Gas
Northern Border Pipeline
Transwestern Pipeline

call the following emergency telephone number:

Operations
Communication Center
EMERGENCY NUMBER

1-888-367-6671

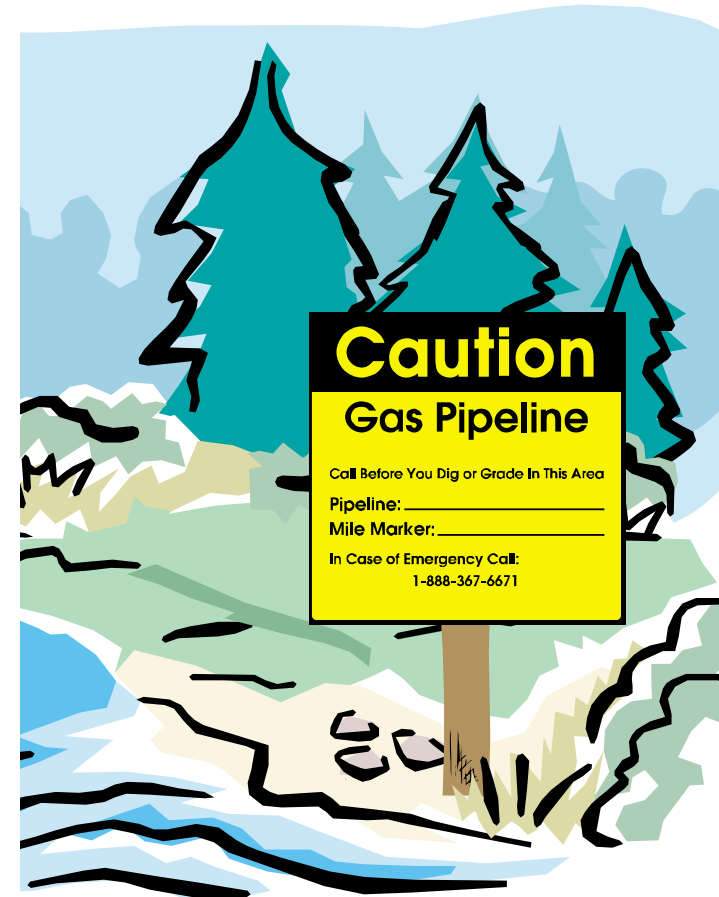
cut here and save

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Midland TX
79711
Permit #117

Pipeline Operations
Attn: Public Awareness Coordinator
P.O. Box 1188, EB4538b
Houston, TX 77251

LIVING SAFELY

With Natural Gas Pipelines



Si usted necesita una versión en español de este folleto, llame al 713-646-7035

Printed on Recycled Paper
February 2002

Signs of a natural gas pipeline leak

Leaks from a natural gas pipeline are extremely rare. Year after year, the National Transportation Safety Board statistics prove the industry's safety. However, it is important to know how to recognize the signs of a leak if one were to occur in your area.

Call right away if you,

SEE

- Vegetation over or near the pipeline, which appears to be dead or dying for no apparent reason.
- Water bubbling at a creek, pond, river, or any wet area.
- Dirt being blown or appearing thrown into the air.
- Fire or explosion near or involving the pipeline.
- Exposed pipeline, which may have been caused by a natural disaster, such as a flood or earthquake.



HEAR

- A hissing, whistling or roaring sound along the pipeline right-of-way.



SMELL

- A "rotten egg" odor.
- Natural gas is usually colorless and odorless. It may have a petroleum smell at times unless odorized. In that case, it will have a slight "rotten egg" smell.



Three steps you should take if you suspect a gas leak

- 1** If there is equipment in the area of a natural gas leak, leave it alone. Do not turn off the ignition or attempt to move it.
- 2** Leave the area immediately and warn others to stay away.
- 3** Once away from the pipeline, call our 24-hour Operations Communication Center Emergency number at **1-888-367-6671**, as well as your local fire or police department.

If it's one of the following pipelines:

- Florida Gas Transmission
- Midwestern Gas Transmission
- Northern Natural Gas
- Northern Border Pipeline
- Transwestern Pipeline

call our 24-hour Operations Communication Center's toll-free emergency telephone number.

1-888-367-6671

DO NOT use an open flame or bring anything into the area that could cause the gas leak to ignite (phones, lighters, etc.).

DO NOT go near the area. Keep other untrained individuals away from the emergency site.

DO NOT attempt to shut off any valves or extinguish any fires.



Why am I receiving this pipeline safety information?

One or more of the following natural gas pipeline companies; *Florida Gas Transmission, Midwestern Gas Transmission, Northern Natural Gas, Northern Border Pipeline, or Transwestern Pipeline* operate underground natural gas pipelines and compressor stations in your area. We are providing this safety information as part of their pipeline damage prevention program to those who live and work in the vicinity of their facilities. Please share this information with others.



What is natural gas?

Natural gas is the cleanest burning fossil fuel. It moves silently, safely and efficiently through an extensive network of interstate pipelines in the United States. Our pipeline companies are part of that network.

Below are some reassuring facts about natural gas:

- Natural gas is not a poison or a toxic.
- Natural gas is colorless and odorless in its natural state.
- Natural gas will not ignite on its own. In order to burn, gas requires both a precise amount of oxygen and an ignition source.
- Natural gas is lighter than air and will rise and diffuse rapidly.



Are pipelines safe?

Natural gas pipelines are the safest method of transporting energy. They lie underground, virtually unseen, as they deliver large volumes of gas

to their customers. Although our pipeline companies follow pipeline safety procedures, it is still important for everyone living and working near gas pipelines to know basic safety information.

Also, pipelines are part of the critical infrastructure of the United States energy grid. Immediately following the attacks on Sept. 11, pipelines across America instituted heightened security measures. While pipeline companies and employees across the nation are on a heightened state of alert, we continue to monitor and patrol the pipelines regularly via aircraft, vehicles, and/or on foot. Please call local law enforcement if you see anything out of the ordinary in your area. Together, we can take precautions that keep America strong.



Who should I call if I detect a gas leak in my home?

If you suspect a natural gas leak inside your home or in your service line, immediately evacuate and contact your local gas company. Our pipeline companies operate the pipelines that deliver gas to local gas distribution companies. The distribution companies then deliver the gas to homes and businesses.



Why do natural gas pipelines use pipeline markers?

Since natural gas pipelines are built underground, line markers are used to indicate the approximate location of the pipelines. However, these markers do not indicate how deep the pipeline is buried. Also, the route can take twists and turns between markers. Never assume the pipeline lies in a straight line. Always call your state's One-Call Center before digging. It is a federal crime for any person to deliberately damage, destroy, or remove any pipeline sign or right-of-way marker that is required by federal law.



What is a pipeline right-of-way?

A pipeline right-of-way is the strip of land over a pipeline. A right-of-way agreement between our pipeline companies and a property owner is called an easement. Easements provide our pipeline companies with permanent, limited access to the land, which enables us to operate, test, inspect, maintain and protect our pipeline. Our pipeline companies' rights-of-way vary in the distance from each side of the center of the pipeline. If you need specific information, contact the appropriate pipeline company.



Can I build/dig on a right-of-way?

Pipeline right-of-way must be kept free from structures and other obstructions. If a pipeline crosses your property, please do not plant trees or high shrubs on or near the right-of-way without first having our pipeline companies' personnel mark the pipeline, stake the easement, and explain their company's construction guidelines to you.



What if I dig and disturb a pipeline?

Whether or not you've notified the natural gas pipeline companies in advance, if you dig, hit, or contact a pipeline in any way, inform the pipeline company immediately. A gouge, scrape, scratch, dent, or crease to a pipe or its coating may cause a future safety problem. It is imperative that the pipeline company inspect and repair any damage to their pipeline, no matter how minor it may seem.

The safety precautions we take with our pipelines

Pipelines must meet all federal, state and local regulations. Our companies' pipelines often exceed these requirements. They have taken several key steps to reduce the risk of accidents:

- The pipeline is built to very high industry standards and is inspected thoroughly before being placed in service.
- Markers listing our pipelines' 24-hour telephone numbers are posted at fence rows, as well as roads, waterways, railroads, and property line crossings.
- Aerial, foot and vehicle patrols survey the route regularly to identify areas such as sink holes or washouts that need attention. These patrols also identify any construction activity near the pipeline.

Safety Procedures

When it comes to your safety or that of anyone else near a pipeline, it is important for you to know the different procedures to take when someone has damaged a pipeline with a gouge, scrape, scratch, dent, or crease to the actual pipe or its coating, as well as when you suspect a gas leak.

If you or anyone else accidentally **damage or suspect a gas leak** on Florida Gas Transmission, Midwestern Gas Transmission, Northern Natural Gas, Northern Border Pipeline, or Transwestern Pipeline, follow these procedures:

- 1 If there is equipment in the area of a natural gas leak, leave it alone. Do not turn off the ignition or attempt to move the equipment.

- 2 Leave the area immediately, and warn others to stay away.

- 3 Once away from the pipeline, call our 24-hour Operations Communication Center Emergency number at **1-888-367-6671**, as well as your local fire or police department.

The Operation Communication Center is made up of a dedicated team trained in emergency situations, who are available 7 days a week, 24-hours a day. They are trained to respond and direct any emergency calls to the proper authorities, gather the most accurate information regarding an incident, and dispatch the proper company personnel to the location of the emergency as quickly as possible.

An important message to those who perform excavation work...

People doing excavation, digging or grading are the most frequent causes of pipeline damage and failures. Whether you are planning to build a major development or landscape your property, you should protect your safety and the safety of those around your work site by notifying your state's One-Call Center before you begin any work on or near a pipeline.

When notified in advance by the One-Call Center, pipeline company personnel will stake the exact location of the pipeline. This is a free service which gives you assurance that your safety will not be compromised, and our pipeline will not be damaged.

Call before you dig

Before you begin any project, use your state's One-Call System. This service is available to you free of charge so that you can proceed safely with digging, trenching, blasting, excavating, drilling, or plowing. Never guess where a pipeline is located.

If you ever damage or hit our companies' pipelines — no matter how minor the contact may seem — call the Operations Communication Center at **1-888-367-6671** immediately.

Dig Safely

YOU DIG

YOU CALL

Call Before You Dig

This number will help you determine your State's One-Call Number

1-888-258-0808

cut here and save