

Natural Gas Pipeline Safety and You.



Natural Gas. The Natural Choice.
ENERGY SERVICES OF PENSACOLA
(850) 474-5300



Homes. Businesses. Industries. Together, they comprise millions of natural gas consumers in neighborhoods and communities like yours across the nation. Remarkable underground pipeline energy highways, over two million miles in all, safely transport and distribute natural gas to customers nationwide. These natural gas highways, according to federal government statistics, are the nation's safest energy transportation system. As your natural gas operators, we are dedicated to making these energy super highways even safer by sharing the important safety information contained in this brochure.

**Para español vaya al final de este folleto.*

SPECIAL NOTE TO PUBLIC OFFICIALS:

Our state's One-Call system is for homes and businesses alike. Even minor contact with a pipeline, causing a small dent, chip or crack, can lead to a natural gas emergency down the road. By law, projects that could affect gas lines and transmission pipeline Rights of Way and easements should not be undertaken without proper authorization. Becoming familiar with the pipeline system in your community and doing your part to be on the lookout for suspicious activity and unauthorized digging will go a long way to prevent personal injuries or even fatalities, as well as costly property and environmental damage.

Please take a few moments to read this brochure and keep it on hand for future reference.





A SAFETY FIRST COMMITMENT

Most natural gas pipelines are buried underground, not only for safety reasons, but also to protect them from the weather and ensure uninterrupted service. Though pipeline leaks and incidents occur only rarely, keeping the delivery of natural gas safe for everyone remains our highest priority.

From design and construction to operations and maintenance, natural gas utilities and pipeline companies like ours set high standards to keep natural gas pipelines

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incident free. The natural gas industry as a whole invests billions of dollars in research, testing, damage prevention, training and awareness building to ensure pipeline safety. As further assurance, the natural gas pipeline system is regulated by numerous federal and state government agencies.

In your area, we work closely with public fire and safety officials to promote natural gas safety. Damage prevention education and training takes place at least once a year, so local officials are prepared and know how to respond if there ever is a natural gas emergency.

NATURAL GAS SAFETY IS FOR EVERYONE

We are part of your community. As your neighbors, we know it is important for everyone to be informed and know how to respond in case of a natural gas emergency.





DETECTING A NATURAL GAS LEAK

Natural gas is one of the safest, most reliable and environmentally friendly fuels in use today, but leaks can occur. There are three key ways to recognize a natural gas leak.

- **Look.** Blowing dirt, bubbling creeks or ponds, dry spots in moist areas or dead plants surrounded by green, live plants also may indicate a natural gas leak.
- **Listen.** An unusual hissing sound near gas lines or appliances may indicate a natural gas leak.
- **Smell.** In its raw state, natural gas is colorless and odorless. Natural gas utility companies add a substance called mercaptan to create the familiar, rotten-egg-like odor you associate with natural gas. You should take action even if you detect only the faint odor of natural gas in the air.

TAKE ACTION FOR NATURAL GAS SAFETY

Here are some keywords to help you remember what to do if a natural gas leak is suspected.

- 1) **Leave.** Leave the area immediately. Do not try to find or stop the leak.
- 2) **Don't touch.** Do not smoke, use a cell phone, flashlight, turn on or off any lights or appliances or operate any kind of vehicle or equipment that could create a spark.
- 3) **Dial.** Immediately notify us. If a leak is suspected near a natural gas transmission pipeline, call the number on the pipeline marker. If the smell of gas is particularly strong, or no number is available, call 9-1-1.



NATURAL GAS SAFETY INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF YOUR PROPERTY

Underground utilities, including natural gas pipelines, exist everywhere. You are responsible for gas lines from the gas meter to your home or business. If there is a natural gas line on your property, a plumbing or heating contractor can locate, inspect and make any necessary repairs. This should be done once a year.

In addition, it's important to familiarize yourself with any pipeline markers that exist on your property. They may be found near a transmission pipeline's Right of Way (ROW). The ROW provides sufficient space for pipeline operators to inspect and perform maintenance on the pipeline. If you ever damage or knock over one of these pipeline markers, contact the pipeline operator or our state's One-Call number, so it can be replaced right away.

In your community, watch for markers indicating where natural gas pipelines are located. Pipeline markers include the phone number you should use in case of an emergency.



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG— IT'S THE LAW

Excavators throughout Florida are responsible for notifying Sunshine State One Call of Florida at 1-800-432-4770 so utility lines can be professionally marked prior to digging. State law requires you to call at least 48 hours in advance. The service is free of charge and applies to digging, ditching, drilling, leveling and plowing by hand or machine. When excavating near a transmission pipeline, a representative of the operating company must be present.





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24 hour gas leak/emergency line:

(850) 474-5300

Customer Service:

(850) 435-1800