

Important Information



- Over two million miles of underground pipeline safely transport and distribute natural gas to millions of homes, businesses and industries. According to federal statistics, pipelines are the nation's safest energy transportation system.
- The industry invests billions of dollars in research, testing, damage prevention, training and awareness building to ensure pipeline safety.
- Natural gas utility and pipeline companies educate and train public safety officials on how to respond in the rare case of a natural gas or pipeline emergency.
- Although natural gas is one of the safest, most reliable and environmentally friendly fuels in use today, leaks sometimes 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 live, green plants are signs of a possible natural gas leak.
 - Listen.** An unusual hissing sound near a gas appliance or line may indicate a 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 and make gas leaks more recognizable.
- If you suspect a natural gas leak, do the following:
 - Leave the area immediately.** Do not try to find or stop the leak.
 - Do not do anything that could create a spark** (e.g. light a cigarette, use a cell phone, start a car, turn appliances or lights on or off).
 - Call your local natural gas or pipeline company immediately.** If you suspect a leak exists near a transmission pipeline, call the number on the pipeline marker. If the smell of natural gas is particularly strong, call 9-1-1.
- Damage from outside forces is the most common cause of pipeline accidents.
- Before anyone begins construction or excavation, he or she is required by law to have underground pipelines professionally marked at least 48 hours ahead of time. Every state has a One-Call system to provide information on pipeline locations and dispatch a trained professional to mark the area at no cost. To access this service, call (850-474-5300)



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