

QUICK GUIDE: PIPELINE SAFETY



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Know what's below. **Call 811** before digging for location and marking of pipelines!

Pipelines exist almost everywhere throughout the United States. You may work, live near or drive by pipelines every day. Pipelines are usually buried underground. Federal and state pipeline safety codes require utilities and pipeline operators comply with extensive requirements for design, construction, testing, inspection, operations and maintenance of all lines to insure pipeline safety.

Call 811 Before You Dig: It's the Law

It's impossible to know the location of all underground lines in an area. It can be costly and dangerous to dig in an area without knowing so **a national Call 811 system was developed. This is a free service** and required by state law for any work that will disturb the soil. **Pipelines can catch fire or explode. Many pipeline accidents are caused by digging without calling 811.**

Calling 811 before digging allows for location and marking of all underground lines. Remember to call three working days before any excavation.

How Can I Tell Where a Pipeline Is Located?

Since most pipelines are buried underground, pipeline markers are used to indicate approximate locations. Markers cannot be relied upon to provide exact locations. Markers can be found where pipelines intersect with streets, highways, or railways.

All markers indicate the material transported in the line, the name of the pipeline operator and the telephone number where the operator can be reached in an emergency. The most common markers are:

- Pipeline Marker
- Aerial Marker
- Casing Vent Markers



Pipeline Marker



Aerial Marker



Casing Vent Marker

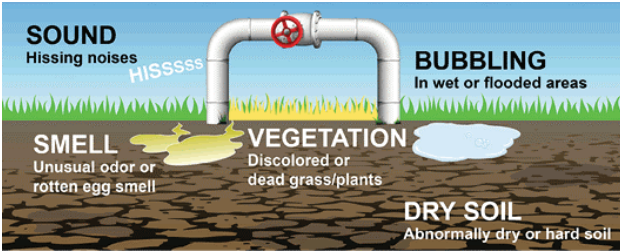
Respect the Pipeline Perimeter

Pipelines need space. The right-of-way (ROW) is an important part of maintaining the integrity and safety of the pipeline system. The pipeline right of way is the land over the pipeline, generally measuring 25 feet from each side of the pipeline.

Do not construct buildings or other structures on the right-of-way. Do not plant trees or other vegetation on the right-of-way. Do not excavate, change the grade or impound water within the right-of-way. Do not move heavy equipment across the right-of-way.

QUICK GUIDE: PIPELINE LEAKS

WARNING SIGNS OF A PIPELINE LEAK



If you suspect a pipeline leak, call 911 immediately!

Detecting Leaks

Although pipeline leaks don't happen often, it's important to recognize the signs of a leak and know what to do if a leak is suspected. The more you know, the safer you are!

- **Sight:** Seeing a white cloud, mist, fog, blowing dust, bubbles on standing water, dry spots in moist areas, or dead vegetation surrounded by live, green plants may indicate a leak.
- **Sound:** Hearing an unusual sound like roaring, hissing, or whistling is an indication of a natural gas leak.
- **Smell:** In its raw state, natural gas is colorless and odorless. Utility companies use a substance called Mercaptan to create a "rotten egg" smell. Take action even if you only detect a slight odor of natural gas.

What TO DO if You Suspect or Detect a Leak

- **Leave** the area immediately in an upwind direction. Do not try to find or stop the leak. Warn bystanders away from the leak.
- **Call** from a safe location away from the leak. Immediately call 911 or the owner of the pipeline. Do not go back to where you smelled, saw or heard a possible leak.

What NOT TO DO if You Suspect or Detect a Leak:

- **Do not use** an open flame or ignition source. Do not smoke, start motors, ring doorbells, light matches, turn lights on or off or operate any vehicle or equipment that could cause a spark.
- **Do not touch** or come in direct contact with gases or liquids.
- **Do not drive** into a vapor cloud or leak.
- **Do not attempt** to close any valves yourself or extinguish a fire.

City of Corpus Christi-Nueces County
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LEPC
WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR SAFETY
CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI / NUECES COUNTY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

