

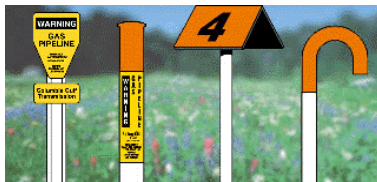
PIPELINE SAFETY

In Your

ENVIRONMENT

[BACK TO TOP](#)

- ✓ **Identification:** The natural gas industry has adopted a standard yellow marker to alert excavators and the public of the presence of an underground pipeline. Our pipelines are marked according to federal guidelines, and list our emergency telephone number for information or to alert us to any problems. Look for yellow or orange markers to signify a pipeline.



- ✓ **Commissioning:** Before operating the pipeline, all systems for providing power, communication, gas compression, transmission and monitoring are thoroughly tested and calibrated to make sure they work together safely and efficiently. Tests are conducted on all electrical, instrumentation, communications, and mechanical and computer equipment. The valves and meter stations that control and measure the flow of gas through the pipeline are also tested to ensure their operating integrity.
- ✓ **System Reliability:** Our pipelines are designed and constructed with safety and system reliability in mind. Isolation valves are installed in key locations throughout the pipeline system and the majority of our pipeline systems are looped. This allows us to control or isolate individual pipeline segments within the systems during maintenance or emergency periods, and provide as much uninterrupted service as possible to our customers.

Safety Around-the-Clock:

Once in operation, our facilities are kept under a constant watch — 24 hours a day, seven days a week — by the staff at our Energy Control Center. Their job is to make sure that a rapid response is available to any problems on the system.

Meanwhile, in communities along our pipelines, local operating teams oversee the day-to-day operations of our facilities. Following strict procedures and safety standards, our operating teams provide our local link to the community, often working closely with our facility neighbors and others in the community.

In particular, our operating teams are constantly on the alert for third-party excavators who may unknowingly dig near our pipelines. Damage by outside parties is the leading cause of damage to pipelines in the United States, and we work hard to protect our facilities. To help prevent outside damage, we conduct regular communications with contractors and others who might be working around the lines so that they understand precautions they should take. We also have an Excavation (Dig) Permit procedure which notify utilities and other underground facility operators before people begin excavating. Our operating teams also communicate with local community officials and emergency responders to discuss the nature of our facilities and our operations, as well as the cooperative steps to be taken in the event of a natural gas emergency.

Inspecting and Re-Inspecting:

Periodic inspections of our facilities help us detect potential problems before they become safety concerns. These inspections, many of which are prescribed by law, include detailed analysis of the underground corrosion protection systems along our pipelines, as well as aboveground surveys for detecting signs of leaks or other problems. In addition, regular patrols of our main pipeline rights of way help us spot changes or conditions that could potentially affect our pipelines.

All of these steps are in accordance with strict safety regulations prescribed by the [U.S. Department of Transportation](#) and overseen by the regulatory enforcement arm of the department's [Office of Pipeline Safety](#).

PIPELINE SAFETY FACTS

Natural gas provides 25 percent of the basic energy needs in the United States, but many consumers are unfamiliar with the pipeline industry that ships that natural gas. The 30 Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA) member companies that operate the 180,000-mile underground interstate natural gas pipeline system have been quietly, safely and reliably delivering natural gas to more than 175 million consumers all over North America for 100 years. The North American natural gas pipeline system is an energy highway that is the envy of the world.

Natural gas pipelines make it possible to heat homes and cook meals, for utilities to generate electricity and for American industry to do its work. [The Interstate Natural Gas Association of America](#) has developed the following answers to some frequently asked questions about the natural gas pipeline industry and its safety.

- ❑ **How does a natural gas pipeline operate?**
- ❑ **Why are pipelines regulated by the Department of Transportation and Florida Public Service Commission?**
- ❑ **Are natural gas pipelines safe?**
- ❑ **Why do you need to build new natural gas pipelines?**

How Does a Natural Gas Pipeline Operate?

Think of a natural gas pipeline as an energy highway. American pipelines transport natural gas from nearly 275,000 gas wells in various production areas of the country over hundreds or thousands of miles to customers in cities, towns and industrial facilities. The gas is compressed when it comes out of the wells, and this compression helps it move at about 15 miles per hour through the pipes. Because the friction of the gas against the pipes slows it down as it travels, pipeline companies operate compressor stations at intervals along their routes to compress the natural gas and help it move at a steady pace. The natural gas in a pipeline is roughly the same temperature as the earth around the pipeline, though the periodic compression can increase the temperature for a short distance. The gas moves relatively quietly on its journey through the pipeline system. Natural gas is delivered to local gas distribution companies (LDCs), which in turn distribute the gas to homes, businesses and factories. Pipelines also deliver gas to end-users, such as electric generators.

Why are pipelines regulated by the Department of Transportation and Florida Public Service Commission?

The United States Department of Transportation (DOT) regulates the interstate transport of goods and services, and oversees safety on the interstate natural gas pipeline industry through the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968. Shipping natural gas from the wellhead to consumers through the interstate pipeline system is a form of transportation.

**PIPELINE
SAFETY**

**In
Your**

**E
N
V
I
R
O
N
M
E
N
T**

BACK TO TOP

PIPELINE SAFETY

In
Your

E
N
V
I
R
O
N
M
E
N
T

BACK TO TOP

Are natural gas pipelines safe?

Yes. The companies that build and operate natural gas pipelines have created the safest mode of transportation today, surpassing highway, rail, air and water. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) statistics show the pipeline industry to be the safest in the country. The pipeline industry has extensive experience with use of redundant safety systems, round-the-clock monitoring and extensive inspection and maintenance to keep the pipelines operating in top condition. And pipeline operators coordinate their procedures with local authorities in case of emergencies.

Pipeline companies also engage in community awareness programs to educate residents about pipeline safety. The focus on pipeline safety education is on construction and excavation damage, the primary cause of pipeline accidents. To respond to this potential damage to their facilities, pipelines have developed One-Call, a 911-style program in which consumers and excavators can call to pinpoint the location and depth of pipelines and cables in their area before they excavate. The local number for the **EXCAVATION (DIG) PERMIT department is: Phone, (407) 560-6539 / Fax, (407) 560-6540.** The national number is 1-888-258-0808. See the dig safely website at www.digsafely.com.

Pipelines spend millions of dollars a year on research, facility inspection and testing, maintenance, emergency planning and public awareness. With hundreds of thousands of miles of pipeline already in the ground, it is inevitable that development of homes, businesses, schools and recreation areas will take place near existing pipeline sites. If an area is developed after a pipeline is built, the pipeline owner is required by law to upgrade its maintenance and safety practices. Homes and businesses are not permitted to be built on the pipeline right-of-way.

Why do you need to build new natural gas pipelines?

As the cleanest of all fossil fuels, natural gas is quickly becoming the fuel of choice for the future. It also is safe, inexpensive and easily available in many places around the United States. These qualities are helping to boost consumer demand, which at more than 22 trillion cubic feet (TCF) per year is an all-time high. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) estimates that demand for natural gas will reach 30 Tcf by 2010. This means that the natural gas pipeline industry must respond with more facilities to supply the additional demand for natural gas.

PIPELINE SAFETY

In Your

ENVIRONMENT

[BACK TO TOP](#)

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

While incidents are rare, it's important for everyone who lives and works near natural gas pipelines to know basic safety information. Here is some information for our neighbors in the community about our operations, how to identify a problem and what to do if a problem occurs.

- ❑ **How to Recognize a Natural Gas Pipeline Leak?**
- ❑ **What to Do and Not Do if You Suspect a Gas Pipeline Leak?**
- ❑ **Frequently Asked Questions about Pipeline Safety**
- ❑ **A Special Message for Those Who Perform Excavation Work**
- ❑ **A Special Message for Public Safety Officials**

How to Recognize a Natural Gas Pipeline Leak?

While leaks on interstate natural gas pipelines are rare, it is important to know how to recognize the signs of a leak if one were to occur in your area. *(Not necessarily will all these signs appear together)*



LOOK

- for dirt being blown or appearing to be thrown into the air
- for water bubbling or being blown into the air at a pond, creek, or river
- for fire coming from the ground or appearing to burn above the ground
- for dead or dying vegetation on or near a pipeline right-of-way in an otherwise green area
- for a dry spot in a moist field



LISTEN

- for a roaring, blowing, or hissing sound

SMELL

- for a gas or petroleum odor



PIPELINE SAFETY

In Your

ENVIRONMENT

BACK TO TOP

What **to Do** and **Not Do** if You Suspect a **Gas Pipeline Leak**

Here's What **TO DO**:



1. Turn off and abandon any motorized equipment you may be operating.
2. Leave the area quickly.
3. Warn others to stay away.
4. From a safe place, call the pipeline operator and your local fire or police department.

Here's What **NOT TO DO**:



Do Not use open flames or bring anything into the area that may spark ignition of the gas leak (telephones, flashlights, motor vehicles, electric or battery-operated tools, etc.).



Do Not attempt to operate pipeline valves.

PIPELINE SAFETY

In
Your

E
N
V
I
R
O
N
M
E
N
T

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Frequently Asked Questions about Pipeline Safety

- **What if I smell gas inside my home or work area?**
- **What is Carbon Monoxide?**
- **Are pipelines safe?**
- **What is a pipeline marker?**
- **What is a pipeline right-of-way?**
- **Can I build or dig on a right-of-way?**

What if I smell gas inside my home or work area?

If you have gas service and you detect a natural gas odor coming from inside your home or work area, leave the area and from a safe place call your local gas company.

What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon monoxide is produced when burning any fuel incompletely, such as charcoal, gasoline or wood. Carbon monoxide is highly poisonous and has no odor, taste or color. If natural gas equipment is not maintained, adjusted and operated properly, it could produce carbon monoxide.

Your natural gas appliances should produce a clear, steady blue flame. If appliances exhibit an unusual behavior or produce a yellowish-color flame, they could need servicing. A trained professional should inspect appliances annually to insure safe operation.

Other Safety Tips

- Keep area surrounding your gas appliances clear from clutter or trash.
- Carbon monoxide detectors may be helpful in your home or business. But remember, a carbon monoxide detector should never be substituted for using equipment safely - which includes having your heating and cooking appliances inspected yearly by a trained professional.

For more information on Carbon Monoxide and it's affects, please visit

<http://www.carbonmonoxidekills.com/coinformation.htm> and

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/466.html>

Are pipelines safe?

Natural gas pipelines are the nation's safest method of transporting energy, quietly delivering large volumes of the clean-burning fuel to local gas distribution companies, who ultimately carry the gas to homes and businesses. While our safety record is exceptional, it's important for everyone who lives and works near natural gas pipelines to know basic safety information.

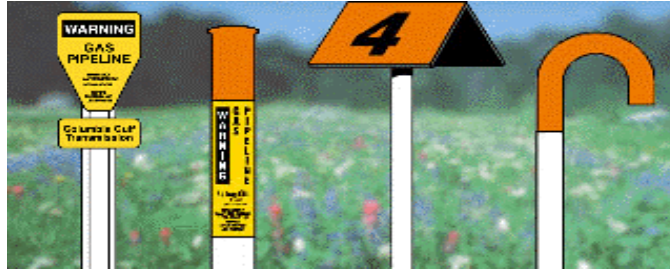
PIPELINE SAFETY

In Your

ENVIRONMENT

[BACK TO TOP](#)

What is a pipeline marker?



Since pipelines are buried underground, pipeline companies use line markers like those shown above to indicate the approximate location of a pipeline. The markers are placed where pipelines intersect streets, railroads, rivers and heavily congested areas. Markers identify the pipeline and show a 24-hour emergency telephone number.

Markers indicate the general, not exact, location of a pipeline. Markers do not indicate how deep the pipeline is buried. Nor do they necessarily indicate how many lines are in the area. And, pipelines do not necessarily follow a straight course between two markers. Never rely solely on the presence or absence of pipeline markers. Pipeline markers are important to public safety. It is a federal crime for any person to willfully deface, damage, remove, or destroy any pipeline sign or right-of-way marker 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 pipeline companies and property owner is called an easement. Easements provide pipeline companies with permanent, limited interest to the land to enable us to operate, test, inspect, maintain and protect our pipelines. Although agreements may vary, pipeline companies rights-of-way generally extend 25 feet from each side of the pipeline unless specified otherwise.

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

Pipeline rights-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 the right-of-way. Also, do not dig, store, or place anything on or near the right-of-way without first having pipeline company personnel mark the pipeline, stake the right-of-way and explain the company's construction guidelines to you.

Pipeline company personnel regularly inspect their pipeline rights-of-way using air, foot and vehicle patrols. The inspectors look for potential danger to pipelines, such as construction activity, and check for signs of gas leaks.

