

Natural Gas Leak Response

Effective communication and coordination between emergency responders and pipeline/utility operator is important for successful management of pipeline incidents.

For an effective response please deploy the following actions:

- Approach with caution from upwind/crosswind location.
- Securing the area and perimeter of the incident by restricting and if necessary informing people in the area to evacuate or stay inside their homes.
- Employ National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) and Incident Commander Center (ICS).
- For a gas release incident that has not resulted in fire, take steps to prevent ignition of gas vapors, such as rerouting traffic and reminding people in the area to not smoke or use electronic/battery powered devices.
- For a gas release that has resulted in a fire, do not extinguish the fire at its source since extinguishing the fire at the source could result in the development of a vapor cloud that could ignite. In this case, emergency responders should allow the fire at the source to continue burning while focusing on preventing the fire from spreading.
- Contact the Russellville Gas Board at 256-332-2020 for further emergency information.

Never...

- Never attempt to extinguish a gas fire: this could prolong/worsen incident/cause another leak in the pipeline.
- Never attempt to operate pipeline valves: this could prolong/worsen incident/cause another leak in the pipeline.



RUSSELLVILLE
GAS BOARD

Pipeline Safety

For your Family,
Neighborhood
& Community

Complete the Online Survey
to be Registered to WIN a
FREE YETI Roadie 20 Cooler!
See details on back page.



RUSSELLVILLE
GAS BOARD

256-332-2020

ALABAMA

811

Know what's below
Call before you dig.

What Can You Do To Help?

Helpful Websites
For additional information on
811 visit www.call811.com

Information for Public Officials



Gas Community Planning Tools

There are many tools available for Public Officials and their community's to help mitigate and understand pipeline and utility incident risks. Please contact your local pipeline operator(s) for more specific information.

- The NPMS can be accessed at <https://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov/>.
- Basic information can be accessed including operator name, pipeline diameter and commodities transported including pipeline location.

pipa Pipeline and information Planning Alliance (PIPA)

The Pipeline and informed Alliance (PIPA) is a department of the PHMSA and has the goal of reducing risks and improve the safety of the affected communities and pipeline operation through a set of recommended practices related to land use. These recommended practices can be accessed at:

<https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/PIPA/landuseplanning.htm>

Complete the ONLINE SURVEY to be Registered to WIN a
FREE YETI Roadie 20 Cooler!

Survey Link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RGBPAS>

or scan the QR Code below that will direct you to the online survey. (Password: 811)



SCAN ME FOR A

CHANCE TO WIN

Russellville Gas Board
256-332-2020

ALABAMA

811

Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Natural Gas Safety

You have received this brochure:

- You live or work near a natural gas transmission, a distribution main and or service pipelines.
- You possibly engage in digging, excavation or demolition or other related activities near natural gas gathering, transmission, distribution main and/or service pipelines.
- Your emergency response agency plans, coordinates and conducts emergency preparedness and response activities near natural gas gathering, transmission, distribution main and/or service pipelines.
- You're a public official that impacts community growth, land use planning and development activities near a natural gas distribution main and/or service pipelines.

The Department of Transportation has said that pipelines are the safest way to transport natural gas from place to place. To maintain this safety, natural gas pipeline and distribution operators have developed High Consequence Area plans, Integrity Management Plans, 24/7 monitoring, right-of-way patrols and inspections and provide safety awareness, training and support.

Distribution pipelines are used to transport Natural Gas to your home or place of business. These are usually composed of smaller diameter, interconnected pipelines. Large distribution lines called mains, along with smaller lines called service lines, deliver natural gas under streets, to homes and businesses. Related structures are regulator stations, customer meters and regulators and valve box covers.

Preventing Pipeline Damage

Call 811 Before You Dig!

Keeping the natural gas pipeline system safe is everyone's responsibility. Pipeline damage most often occurs during digging and excavation activities. Whether you are simply planting a tree, auguring a fence post hole, installing a deck or working on a

more complex home or commercial excavation activity, you have to call 811 before you dig.

It's the law!

Steps you must take:

1. Call 811
2. Wait until all buried utilities are marked with paint and flags.
3. Dig with care



Know what's below
Call before you dig.

Prior to digging or any excavation activity call 811. The One Call operator will want to know where your activity will occur and what type of activity you will be doing. The State of Alabama requires notice at least 2 full working days before any digging activities begin. Failure to notify could result in penalties and fines up to \$10,000 for each violation. For more Alabama One-Call information please visit: <http://www.al811.com/>

All buried facilities will be located and marked with one or a combination of the following: paint, chalk, flags, stakes, brushes or offsets.

Natural Gas Characteristics

Natural Gas is colorless, tasteless, odorless and lighter than air. It is extremely flammable and easily ignited by heat, sparks or flames. **Utility companies add a product called Mercaptan to natural gas mains and service lines. Mercaptan is a harmless chemical that contains sulfur which smells like rotten eggs.**

PRODUCT	LEAK TYPE	VAPORS
Natural Gas	Gas	Lighter than air

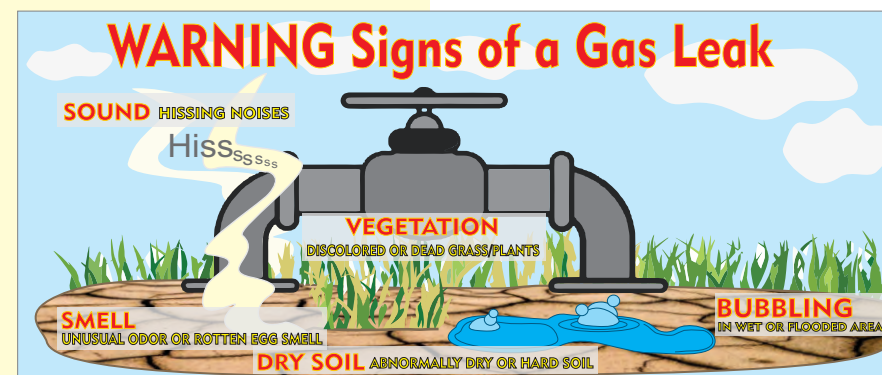
HEALTH HAZARDS	FIRE HAZARDS
Extremely High Concentrations may cause irritation or asphyxiation	Extremely flammable and easily ignited by heat, sparks or flames
Possible presence of H2S, a toxic gas	

Natural Gas Leak Recognition

SMELL: To help consumers detect natural gas leaks, an odorant (mercaptan) is added to the natural gas carried by distribution lines. This odorant gives natural gas a smell like rotten eggs.

SIGHT: Blowing dirt, fire coming from ground, dry or frozen spots, dead vegetation within a green area or water bubbling in a pond or creek.

HEAR: Listen for a hissing, blowing or roaring sound.



How You Should Respond to and Report a Pipeline Emergency

The following guidelines are designed to ensure your safety and the safety of those in the area if a natural gas leak is suspected or detected.

- **DO** leave the area immediately, moving upwind of the product release.
- **DO** notify emergency response personnel by calling 911 and Russellville Gas Board at 256-332-2020.
- **DO NOT** breathe the released product or make contact with the product or pipeline components.
- **DO NOT** create any sparks with matches, lighters, switches or battery powered devices.
- **DO NOT** start or continue operating equipment in the area.
- **DO NOT** drive a vehicle near the area of the release.
- **DO NOT** operate any pipeline valves. Leave all valve operation to pipeline company personnel.
- **DO NOT** put out any fires that are burning at the pipeline.



Uniform Color Code

The American Public Works Association (APWA) Uniform Color Code will be used for marking excavation sites and underground facilities.

	Proposed Excavation		Communication
	Temporary Survey		Potable Water
	Electric		Reclaimed Water and Irrigation
	Gas, Oil, Steam and Petroleum		Sewer & Drain Lines

Dig and Excavate Safely

Do not dig or excavate prior to the worksite being marked. Respect the location marks. Use digging and excavation best practices to ensure safety.

Pipeline Locations, Markers and Locating

Pipelines and Utilities are buried and located in **Right-Of-Ways (ROWS)**. ROW's are clear of any structures and/or trees to allow access for maintenance and emergency response. ROW's should be clear of trees, shrubs, overgrowth, buildings, fences or other structures that may interfere with access to the pipeline. Any encroachment on a ROW could result in the removal of the structure at the cost of the property owner. So it's important to call 811 before doing any home or work project.

Pipeline markers are placed where pipelines intersect public roads, river crossings and all railroad crossings.

Markers display the operator name, phone number and the product being transported.



PIPELINE MARKERS DO NOT INDICATE THE DEPTH OF A PIPELINE

How to Respond to Damaging, Disturbing or Nicking a Pipeline

If a pipeline, distribution main or service line suffers any level of damage, scrapes, scratches or disturbance during your digging activity, contact the Russellville Gas Board immediately.



Excavators

Dig and Excavate Safety

Do not dig or excavate prior to the work site being marked. Respect the locations marks. Use digging and excavation best practices to ensure safety.

How to Respond to Damaging, Disturbing or Nicking a Pipeline

If a pipeline, distribution main or service line suffers any level of damage, scrapes, scratches or disturbance during your digging activity, contact the pipeline operator immediately.



Important Information for Emergency Responders

Natural Gas Emergency Response Preparedness Tools

There are many tools available for Emergency Responders to be prepared for, and understand pipeline emergency response. Emergency Responders should review pipeline incident emergency response plans with pipeline operators. Please contact your local pipeline operator for more information.

PHMSA's Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG)

- Access information about ERG at <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/erg/emergency-response-guidebook-erg>

Pipeline Emergencies Training

- Access information about Pipeline Emergencies at <http://pipelineemergencies.com>
- Produced by PHMSA and the National Association of State Fire Marshals and provides an overview of pipeline operations to meet the needs of emergency responders.

