

EMERGENCY RESPONSE & COMMUNITY PLANNING

A Federal and State Regulated Pipeline Safety Message



MIDCOAST ENERGY

To report an emergency, call 911 and immediately notify Midcoast Energy at

1-888-650-8099

To update your contact information and calling priority or to obtain a copy of our emergency response plan please call our local office at **1-800-755-5400**.

You received this material because Midcoast Energy operates a pipeline in your jurisdiction.

In your role as an emergency response or public official, we are your partner in maintaining safety and responding to a pipeline incident, in the unlikely event one should occur. Our first priority is to protect life, second to protect property and third to maintain service. One way we support safety is to inform you of pipelines we own or operate in your jurisdiction.

Purpose and Reliability

The United States has the largest pipeline network in the world and pipelines deliver the raw materials that are processed into fuel that powers our lives. Gathering lines transport products from the production site to processing facilities and connect to transmission lines that carry the products from one part of the state to another. Distribution lines run throughout neighborhoods and connect to homes and businesses. We are committed to safe and reliable operation of our pipelines in your community. Once designed, tested and installed, pipelines are operated and maintained according to all federal and state requirements. We also conduct regular patrols of our pipelines and follow a carefully planned maintenance and inspection schedule.

Pipeline Integrity Management

According to pipeline data related to personal injuries that is collected by the U.S. Department of Transportation, pipelines are one of the safest and most cost-effective ways to transport these products. Pipeline operators are subject to many Federal and State regulations, as well as, industry standards. These regulations and standards deal with all phases of pipeline operations. In accordance with federal regulations, some segments along transmission pipelines have been designated as high consequence areas (HCAs) and supplemental hazard assessment and prevention programs have been developed. These programs provide comprehensive management of threats to the integrity of natural gas facilities in HCAs.

For an overview of our Integrity Management Plan, please call us at:
1-713-627-6005

Potential Hazards of a Pipeline Release

Midcoast Energy pipelines transports natural gas, natural gas liquids (NGLs), and Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S). The products we transport are flammable commodities; therefore, a potential exists for a release to escalate into a fire or an explosion that could affect people and property near the pipeline. Although accidents are rare, a pipeline failure can occur due to third-party excavation damage, corrosion, material defects, worker error, and events of nature.

Product	Leak Type	Vapors	Health Hazards	Fire Hazards
Natural Gas	Colorless, odorless, tasteless gas; may be odorized in some areas	Lighter than air	Extremely high concentration may cause irritation or asphyxiation	Extremely flammable.
Natural Gas Liquids (NGLs)	Gas	Heavier than air	Dangerous if inhaled	Extremely flammable.
Hydrogen Sulfide (H ₂ S)	Gas	Heavier than air	High concentration can cause shock, convulsions, inability to breathe, extremely rapid unconsciousness. H ₂ S causes a foul odor in small concentration but paralyzes the sense of smell in high concentration.	Extremely flammable.

How To Recognize A Leak

Pipeline emergencies include damaged pipelines, fire, an explosion near or directly involving a pipeline, a natural disaster affecting the pipeline, or a leaking pipeline.



SIGHT:

Flames, liquid pools, discolored or abnormally dry soil/vegetation, continuous bubbling in wet or flooded areas, an oily sheen on water surfaces, and vaporous fogs or blowing dirt around a pipeline area all can be indicative of a pipeline leak. Dead or discolored plants in an otherwise healthy area of vegetation or frozen ground in warm weather are other possible signs.



SOUND:

Volume can range from quiet hissing to a loud roar, depending on the size of the leak and pipeline system.



SMELL:

An unusual smell, petroleum odor or gaseous odor sometimes will accompany pipeline leaks.

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Public Officials Play an Important Role in Damage Prevention

As a public official, you serve a critical role in helping to prevent pipeline incidents. It is imperative that you take every opportunity to promote Call Before You Dig to prevent a potential disaster by stopping anyone from digging on unmarked land, preventing right-of-way encroachments, and make sure that law enforcement and emergency response personnel are aware of the “Call Before You Dig” law and remain vigilant.

Digging-related damage is the leading cause of pipeline incidents. Because even relatively minor excavation activities (for example: installing mail boxes, privacy fences and flag poles, performing landscaping, constructing storage builds, etc.) can cause damage to a pipeline or its protective coating or to other buried utility lines. It is important that you report any suspected signs of damage.

The negative impacts associated with pipeline damage can include the areas of personal health, the environment, loss of services, and costs of repairs and fines related to damaging a pipeline. Calling 811 will reach the state One Call center so that underground utilities in the vicinity of planned excavations can be located prior to excavating.



Call 811 Before You Dig!
It's SAFE. It's FREE. It's the LAW!
 State law requires you to notify
811 BEFORE YOU DIG.
THIS IS A FREE SERVICE.



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

For general 811 information, visit www.call811.com.

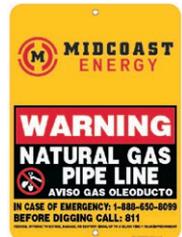
Visit:
<http://call811.com/811-your-state>
 and select your state to see state specific one call rules.

State	Notice Required
Arkansas	2 Working Days
Oklahoma	2 Working Days
Texas	2 Working Days

Where are the Pipelines

Since pipelines are located underground and are not visible, Midcoast Energy uses line markers to identify the proximity of the pipeline. Pipeline markers are placed above ground along the pipeline right-of-way and at above ground pipeline facilities, street crossings, and railroad crossings to indicate the approximate location of the pipeline.

The marker will provide the name of the pipeline operator, the contents of the pipeline, and an emergency phone number. If an emergency is suspected or discovered call the number on the pipeline marker. While markers play an important role in identifying pipelines, they are not used to give depth or exact locations. The only way to ensure the location of a pipeline is to practice the "Call Before You Dig" rule. The location of transmission pipelines can be found at the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) web site: www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov.



Public Official Pipeline Right-Of-Way Encroachment Prevention:

In your role as a public official, we need your help to protect the rights-of-way that all utilities are granted by agreement with local officials. These rights-of-way are clear of any structures and/or trees and provide utilities with access to work on their lines so they can respond effectively to emergencies.

Please help us to maintain the rights-of-way by informing the public of right-of-way rules and limitations and ensuring that rights-of-way are kept clear of obstructions such as trees, shrubs, overgrowth, buildings, fences, structures or any other encroachments that might interfere with access to the pipeline. Encroachments on the right-of-way inhibit the company's ability to reduce third-party damages, provide right-of-way surveillance, and perform routine maintenance and required federal/state inspections. Maintaining a pipeline right-of-way free of encroachments is an essential element of maintaining pipeline integrity and safety.

Decisions public officials make about public or private use of land along the right-of-way can impact public safety. Pipeline incidents present risks that may impact public welfare, property, the environment and local economy far beyond the edges of the right-of-way.

To maintain the safe operation of pipelines:

- Help to make sure prior authorization from easement holders is obtained in the permit process for construction/development.
- Set a requirement for pipeline operator involvement in road widening or grading, mining, blasting, dredging, and other activities.

Contact us at **1-877-496-8147** with any questions about the right-of-way or if you plan to dig or build where the right-of-way could be involved.

Security

You are our first line of defense against unauthorized excavation and other such activity in the right-of-way, and you can help by contacting us of suspicious activities. Please help us by following the suggestions below.

- Become familiar with the pipelines in your area (look for pipeline markers)
- Become familiar with pipeline facilities in your area (look for fence signs at gate entrances)
- Record the operator name, contact information and any pipeline information from nearby pipeline marker signs or facility signs and keep them in a permanent location near a telephone
- Be observant for any unusual or suspicious activities and unauthorized excavations taking place within or near the pipeline right-of-way or pipeline facility
- Report such activities to the pipeline operator

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Additional information

- For a list of transmission pipeline operators in your area, visit **www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov**
- For a land-use checklist developed by the Pipeline and Informed Planning Alliance, visit **<http://1.usa.gov/11Mpajm>**
- For a summary of initiatives that encourage communication between pipeline operators, contractors and land developers, visit **<http://1.usa.gov/11ABp5b>**
- For more information about pipeline assets in your community, contact us at **1-800-755-5400**
- For excavation practices near underground facilities, visit **www.commongroundalliance.com**
- For NENA recommended dispatcher protocol for pipeline emergencies (Standard 56-507), visit **www.nena.org**.
- For the PHMSA Emergency Response Guidebook, visit **www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/library/erg**
- For information on our emergency preparedness drills and exercises please contact us at **1-800-755-5400**



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