

# PIPELINE SAFETY FOR YOUR SCHOOL

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**

This brochure has been sent because your school has been identified as being in an area where Midcoast Energy pipelines exist.

# Pipelines Near Your School Campus

Even though pipelines are one of the safest ways to transport natural gas, emergencies are possible. If such an emergency occurs it requires immediate and coordinated response efforts to protect students, staff, property and the environment. Yet, quite often pipeline facilities are overlooked when assessing risks.

Midcoast Energy wants to help schools like yours improve safety planning and readiness. The first step is to review and share the enclosed brochure. It contains important information everyone should know as well as our emergency phone numbers.



## Keep with Safety Plans and Procedures

The following recommendations can help assure your school is prepared for an appropriate response:

- Familiarize staff and students with the location of nearby pipelines.
- Know how to recognize the signs of a potential pipeline problem and how to respond.
- Incorporate procedures for appropriately responding to a pipeline emergency in your school's safety and evacuation plans.
- Talk with your district transportation director to ensure your school's drivers have appropriate training.
- Maintain a heightened sense of vigilance in identifying risks to nearby pipelines. To prevent an emergency, report unmarked digging activity or environmental changes to Midcoast Energy or law enforcement.

# Potential Hazards of a Pipeline Release

Midcoast Energy pipelines transports natural gas, natural gas liquids (NGLs), and Hydrogen Sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S). 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.

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 <sub>2</sub> S)	Gas	Heavier than air	High concentration can cause shock, convulsions, inability to breath, extremely rapid unconsciousness. H <sub>2</sub> 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:**

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:**

Listen for a hissing, roaring, whistling, or bubbling sound from the ground.



### **SMELL:**

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

**To report an emergency immediately notify Midcoast Energy.**

**Emergency Number: 1-888-650-8099**

## What to Do If You Suspect a Leak

If you suspect a gas leak involving our pipeline, follow your school's notification, evacuation and shelter-in-place procedures. Gas leak identification and response procedures should instruct staff to:

- Leave the area where you suspect a leak in an upwind direction and warn others to stay away.
- Call 911 and Midcoast Energy from a safe place to report the leak.
- If the leak is inside a school building, open a window or door to allow gas to dissipate and leave the building.

## What **NOT** to Do When a Leak Occurs

- **DO NOT** come into direct contact with any escaping liquids or gas.
- **DO NOT** drive into a leak or vapor cloud while leaving the area.
- **DO NOT** attempt to operate any pipeline valves yourself. You may inadvertently route more product to the leak or cause a secondary incident.
- **DO NOT** attempt to extinguish the fire. Wait for local firemen and other professionals trained to deal with such emergencies.

## What Midcoast Energy Will Do During an Emergency

**Our emergency response plans outline the steps taken to respond, including:**

- Contacting public safety officials and emergency responders
- Locating and isolating the emergency site
- Shutting off and containing the flow of the product
- Assembling a team of experts from various areas of our company to address the emergency

**Once all safety issues are addressed, the plan contemplates:**

- Assessing any property damage resulting from the incident/accident
- Preserving the integrity of the site and working closely with local, state and federal agencies to determine the cause of the incident/accident and appropriate remedial measures

## Pipeline Purpose and Reliability

Pipelines are a critical component of our nation's energy infrastructure and serve as the underground highways that transport energy across the country. According to data related to personal injuries, collected by the U.S. Department of Transportation, pipelines are the safest and most cost-effective means of transporting these products. Pipeline companies, such as Midcoast Energy, follow strict regulations and standards to ensure pipeline safety. Pipeline personnel check for visible signs of leaks or corrosion during regular aerial and foot patrols. They use special equipment to inspect and clean the inside of pipelines, and routinely test valves and gas samples to identify early signs of corrosion.

The information here addresses hazards, consequences, and preventative measures in general. Midcoast Energy integrity management plans and more specific information can be obtained by calling: **1-713-627-6005**.

## Safe Digging Near Our Pipelines

Excavation activity can damage pipelines. School maintenance staff and contractors should **always call 811** before digging on school property to request that pipelines and other underground utility lines are located and marked. Digging-related damage is one of the leading causes of pipeline incidents. You must report any suspected signs of damage, because even relatively minor excavation activities (for example: installing mail boxes, fences, flag poles, landscaping, storage buildings, etc.) can cause damage to a pipeline or its protective coating.



**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](http://www.call811.com).

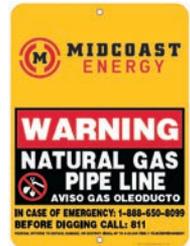
Visit:  
<http://call811.com/811-your-state>  
 and select your state to see state  
 specific one call rules.

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

## Pipeline Location and Right-Of-Ways

A pipeline right-of-way is a strip of land over and around pipelines where some of the property owner's legal rights have been granted to a pipeline company. This may also be referred to as an easement. Most pipelines are underground, where they are more protected from the elements and minimize interference with surface uses. Even so, pipeline rights-of-way are clearly identified by pipeline markers along pipeline routes that identify the approximate – NOT EXACT – location of the pipeline. Right-of-ways are clear of any structures and trees. They allow access to pipeline operators for maintenance, for ground and aerial inspections, and for testing. Every pipeline marker contains information identifying Midcoast Energy pipelines, the product transported and a phone number that should be called in the unlikely event of an emergency.

Markers do not indicate pipeline burial depth, which will vary. Markers typically are seen where a pipeline intersects a street, highway or railway. It is a federal crime for any person to willfully deface, damage, remove or destroy any pipeline marker.



# Right-Of-Way Encroachment Prevention

Encroachment upon pipeline right-of-ways inhibits our ability to reduce third-party damage, to provide right-of-way surveillance, to perform routine maintenance and required federal/state inspections. Such encroachment may also reduce access to the area in the event of an emergency. Do not plant trees or high shrubs on the right-of-way. Please help us prevent digging, building, storing, or placing anything on or near the right-of-ways without first having the pipeline marked and the right-of-ways staked.

If there are questions concerning the pipeline or the right-of-way, especially if property improvements or excavations are planned that might impact the right-of-way, please contact us at **1-877-496-8147**.

## Additional information

- For a list of transmission pipeline operators near your school, visit **[npms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://npms.phmsa.dot.gov)**
- For excavation practices near underground facilities, visit **[commongroundalliance.com](http://commongroundalliance.com)**
- For more information about pipeline assets in your community, call us at: **1-800-755-5400**



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