

# Pipeline safety and land use planning information

SCAN THIS PAGE WITH PAV\*



*\*Instructions on back*



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

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Land Use Planning  
Planning, Zoning and Property Development  
What Pipelines Transport and Their Hazards  
Call Before You Dig

## Pipelines are near you

You have received this information because the decisions you make regarding land use and property development in your jurisdiction may impact the pipelines in your area. These pipelines, operated by the companies whose **fact sheets** accompany this booklet, are part of the network of over 2.6 million miles of gathering, transmission, and distribution pipelines in the United States, transporting two-thirds of the energy we use each year.



*Buried Pipeline*

## What pipelines transport and what the potential hazards are

Many pipelines transport petroleum products and natural gas. Some pipelines transport other hazardous products such as chemicals, highly volatile liquids, anhydrous ammonia, or carbon dioxide. Exposure to these products can be harmful if inhaled, can cause eye and skin irritation, and/or difficulty in breathing. Fortunately, pipeline accidents are extremely rare, but they can occur. Natural gas and petroleum products are flammable, potentially hazardous, and explosive under certain conditions. Pipeline companies undertake many prevention and safety measures to ensure the integrity of their pipeline systems. You can obtain more specific information regarding pipelines and the products they carry by contacting the pipeline company directly.

## How you can help keep pipelines safe

While accidents pertaining to pipeline facilities are rare, awareness of the location of the pipeline, the potential hazards, and what to do if a leak occurs can help minimize the number of accidents. A leading cause of pipeline incidents is third-party excavation damage. Pipeline companies are responsible for the safety and security of their respective pipelines. To help maintain the integrity of pipelines and their right-of-way, it is essential that pipeline and facility neighbors protect against unauthorized excavations or other destructive activities. You can help by:

- Keeping the enclosed **fact sheets** for future reference.
- Attending a pipeline safety training program in your area.
- Familiarizing yourself and your agency with the Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA) best practices regarding land use planning near transmission pipelines (below).
- Completing and returning the enclosed postage-paid survey.
- Report to the pipeline company localized flooding, ice dams, debris dams, and extensive bank erosion that may affect the integrity of pipeline crossings.



*TriView™ Marker, Dome Marker, Flat Marker, Round Marker, Aerial Marker, Casing Vent Markers.*

## How to recognize the location of a pipeline

Markers are located in the pipeline right-of-way and indicate the approximate location, but not the depth, of a buried pipeline. Although not present in certain areas, these can be found at road crossings, fence lines, and street intersections. The markers display the product transported in the pipeline, the name of the pipeline operator, and a telephone number where the operator can be reached in the event of an emergency.

## How to recognize a pipeline leak



### Sight

Natural gas and Highly Volatile Liquids (HVL) are colorless and nearly invisible to the eye. Small leaks can be identified by looking for dying or discolored vegetation in a naturally green area. Hazardous liquids produce a strong sheen or film standing on a body of water.

An HVL leak may be identified by a fog-like vapor cloud in areas of high humidity. Natural gas is colorless, but blowing dirt around a pipeline area may be observed, or vapor and “ground frosting” may be visible at high pressures, regardless of temperature.

Other ways to recognize a leak may include: water bubbling up or standing in an unusual area, a mist or vapor cloud, a powerful fire or explosion with dense smoke plumes, or an area of petroleum-stained ground.



### Sound

The volume of a pipeline leak can range from a quiet hissing to a loud roar, depending on the size and nature of the leak.



### Smell

An unusual smell, petroleum or gaseous odor will sometimes accompany pipeline leaks. Natural gas and HVLs are colorless, tasteless and odorless unless odorants, such as Mercaptan, are added.

Most HVLs contain a slight hydro-carbon or pungent odor. Most are nontoxic; however, products such as ammonia are considered a toxic chemical and can burn the senses when it seeks out moisture (eyes, nose or lungs). If inhaled, HVLs may cause dizziness or asphyxiation without warning.



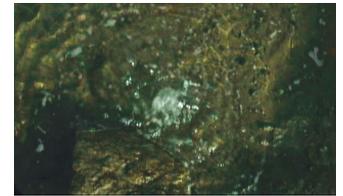
Vapor Cloud



Sheen on Water



Dead Vegetation



Bubbling Water

## Land use planning and transmission pipelines

The Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA) is a broad stakeholder initiative led and supported by the US Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. The goal of PIPA is to reduce risks and improve the safety of affected communities and transmission pipelines through implementation of recommended practices related to risk-informed land use and development near transmission pipelines. The PIPA recommended practices describe actions that can be taken by stakeholders when there are proposed changes in land use or new development adjacent to existing transmission pipelines.

PIPA has developed recommended practices to help in making decisions about what, where, and how to build safely near transmission pipelines. The decisions you make can impact the safety of the community surrounding the pipeline.

- Have you consulted with the pipeline company?
- Have you considered access for pipeline maintenance and emergency response?
- Is enhanced fire protection needed?
- How will excavation damage to the pipeline be prevented?

For more information, please go to [phmsa.dot.gov](http://phmsa.dot.gov).

## Call before you dig



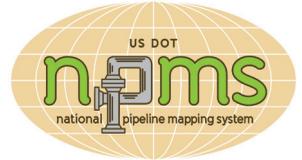
99%\* of all incidents involving injury, damage and service outages can be avoided by making a FREE CALL to 811. Your call should be made at least two to three business days prior to excavating. Examples of some activities that require a call to 811 include:

- Utility excavation
- Land development activities
- Maintenance construction activities
- Landscaping

Once your underground utilities have been marked, you will know their approximate location and can safely begin your dig, following safe excavation practices.

\* CGA Dirt Report 2013

## National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS)



The National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) is a geographic information system created by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) in cooperation with other federal and state governmental agencies and the pipeline industry to provide information about companies and their pipelines. The NPMS web site is searchable by ZIP Code or by county and state, and can display a printable county map.

Within the NPMS, PHMSA has developed the Pipeline Integrity Management Mapping Application (PIMMA) for use by pipeline companies and federal, state, and local government officials only. The application contains sensitive pipeline infrastructure information that can be viewed via internet browsers. Access to PIMMA is limited to federal, state, and local government officials, as well as pipeline companies. PIMMA access cannot be given to any person who is not a direct employee of a government agency.

For a list of companies with pipelines in your area and their contact information, or to apply for PIMMA access, go to [npms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://npms.phmsa.dot.gov). Companies that operate production facilities, gas/liquid gathering piping, and distribution piping are not represented by NPMS nor are they required to be.

The screenshot shows the NPMS website interface. At the top left is the NPMS logo. The main header reads "NATIONAL PIPELINE MAPPING SYSTEM". Below this, there are four circular icons representing different user roles: "GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL" (US Capitol), "PIPELINE OPERATOR" (worker in a hard hat), "GENERAL PUBLIC" (group of people), and "FIRST-TIME VISITOR" (warning sign). Below these icons are two main navigation panels. The left panel is for "PIMMA USER LOGIN" (password protected, restricted to government officials and pipeline operators) and includes buttons for "LOGIN" and "APPLY FOR PIMMA ACCESS", along with a "Forgot Password?" link. The right panel is for "PUBLIC MAP VIEWER" (no password required) and includes buttons for "ABOUT PUBLIC MAP VIEWER" and "USE PUBLIC MAP VIEWER". The background of the interface shows a large pipeline running through a landscape.

## Planning, zoning, and property development

It is crucial to coordinate with pipeline companies to take the location of pipelines into consideration in land-use plans, zoning, and property-development activities. Developments can make use of pipeline easements as open spaces and greenway connectors. Pipeline depth is a crucial consideration during development planning to ensure that costs for lowering or relocation are identified. Changes to the topography on either side of a pipeline may impose unacceptable stresses on the pipeline. Pipeline companies would like to coordinate in the development of site plans where large numbers of people congregate, including schools, churches, etc.

## Pipeline Safety and Damage Prevention\*

PROHIBITION APPLICABLE TO EXCAVATORS. A person who engages in demolition, excavation, tunneling, or construction.

1. May not engage in a demolition, excavation, tunneling, or construction activity in a State that has adopted a One-Call notification system without first using that system to establish the location of underground facilities in the demolition, excavation, tunneling, or construction area;
2. May not engage in such demolition, excavation, tunneling, or construction activity in disregard of location information or markings established by a pipeline facility operator...;
3. And who causes damage to a pipeline facility that may endanger life or cause serious bodily harm or damage to property.
  - A. May not fail to promptly report the damage to the owner or operator of the facility; and
  - B. If the damage results in the escape of any flammable, toxic, or corrosive gas or liquid, may not fail to promptly report to other appropriate authorities by calling the 911 emergency telephone number.

\* Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act of 2006 (Section 2)

## Maintaining safety and integrity of pipelines

Pipeline companies invest significant time and capital maintaining the quality and integrity of their pipeline systems. Most active pipelines are monitored 24 hours a day via manned control centers. Pipeline companies also utilize aerial surveillance and/or on-ground observers to identify potential dangers. Control center personnel continually monitor the pipeline system and assess changes in pressure and flow. They notify field personnel if there is a possibility of a leak. Automatic shut-off valves are sometimes utilized to isolate a leak. Gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipeline companies have developed supplemental hazard and assessment programs known as Integrity Management Programs (IMPs). IMPs have been implemented for areas designated as "high consequence areas" (HCAs) in accordance with federal regulations. Specific information about companies' programs may be found on their company web sites or by contacting them directly.



*Planning, Zoning and Property Development*



## Identified sites\*

Owners and companies of gas transmission pipelines are regulated by the US Department of Transportation (DOT). According to integrity management regulations, gas pipeline companies are required to accept the assistance of local public safety officials in identifying certain types of sites or facilities adjacent to the pipeline which meets the following criteria:

- (a)** A small, well-defined outside area that is occupied by twenty or more persons on at least 50 days in any twelve-month period (the days need not be consecutive).  
Examples of such an area are playgrounds, parks, swimming pools, sports fields, and campgrounds.
- (b)** A building that is occupied by 20 or more persons on at least 5 days a week for 10 weeks in any 12 month period (the days and weeks need not be consecutive).  
Examples included in the definition are: religious facilities, office buildings, community centers, general stores, 4-H facilities, and roller rinks.
- (c)** A facility that is occupied by persons who are confined, are of impaired mobility, or would be difficult to evacuate. Examples of such a facility are hospitals, schools, elder care, assisted living/nursing facilities, prisons and child daycares.

If you know of sites within your jurisdiction that fit any of the above requirements, please go to [isr.pipelineportal.com](http://isr.pipelineportal.com) to provide this valuable information to pipeline companies.

\* 49 CFR §192.903.

## Emergency response plans for gas and hazardous liquid pipeline companies

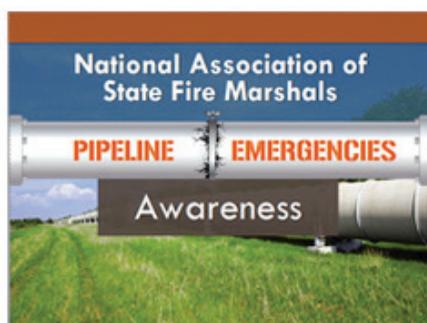
Federal regulations for both gas and hazardous liquid pipelines require companies to have written procedures for responding to emergencies involving their pipeline facilities. Because pipelines are often located in public space, the regulations further require that companies include procedures for planning with emergency and other public officials to ensure a coordinated response. Please contact your local pipeline companies for information regarding their company-specific emergency response plan.

## Training

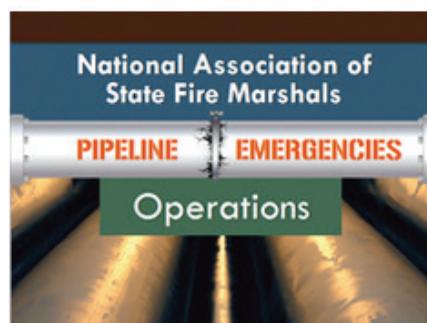
Pipeline companies regularly host local emergency responder and local public official liaison events. A list of events can be found at [pipelinesafetyinfo.com/state\\_sites](http://pipelinesafetyinfo.com/state_sites). However, if you are not able to attend an event, additional resources and training are available online at [pipelinesafetyinfo.com/tc](http://pipelinesafetyinfo.com/tc). This can also serve as a resource for all personnel within your department. Once you complete the registration, you will be distributed an email with a username and password.

## Course Offerings

[Training Center Portal](#)



Pipeline Emergencies: Introduction



Pipeline Emergencies: Intermediate



Pipeline Emergencies: Comprehensive

**Download** the Pipeline Awareness Viewer™ (PAV) app for important land use and property development information. Use PAV to learn about:



- The PIMMA application and apply for access



- Land use planning and transmission pipelines



- The 811 process



- How to recognize a pipeline leak



- The different types of pipelines



- How to recognize the location of a pipeline



- Take online survey

## How to use PAV:

- Launch the app.
- Point your device at the brochure cover and tap the screen to scan.\*
- Once the content is revealed, tap the pop-out button  to freeze the content on your screen.
- Tap the buttons to view important videos or to visit websites about pipeline safety.



*\*For best results, enable Wi-Fi on your device before using PAV. Windows Phone® and BlackBerry® devices are not supported at this time.*

**ARKANSAS  
 EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER:  
 (800) 992-7552**

**About CenterPoint Energy**

CenterPoint Energy's natural gas distribution and transmission businesses have been serving customers for more than a century. We deliver more than 400 billion cubic feet of natural gas each year to about 3.4 million residential, commercial, and industrial customers. This makes CenterPoint Energy one of the largest publicly traded natural gas distribution companies in the country.

We own and operate over 119,000 miles of main and service lines that deliver gas to more than 990 communities in Arkansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas including the high growth areas of Houston and Minneapolis.

**Commitment to Safety, Health & Environment**

According to the National Transportation and Safety Board, pipelines are the safest and most economical way to transport products. We are committed to the safe operation of our pipelines in your community. We monitor the operations of our pipelines from our control centers, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our pipelines are designed, installed, tested, operated and maintained in accordance with all applicable federal and state requirements. CenterPoint Energy maintains its safety record with routine inspections, corrosion protection, maintenance and testing programs, employee training, integrity management programs, and a public awareness program.

If a gas pipeline emergency were to occur, CenterPoint Energy personnel will work directly with local emergency responders. Our priorities at the scene of a pipeline emergency are the same as yours-- protect people, property and the environment. CenterPoint Energy field personnel are trained in Incident Command Structure

(ICS) and familiar with how to work with local responders within the ICS framework. CenterPoint Energy personnel will restrict the flow of gas and implement other operating actions as needed to minimize the impact of the emergency. Public safety officials and other non-company personnel should not attempt to operate pipeline valves. Improper operation of pipeline valves can cause other accidents to occur.

To view and download maps of transmission pipelines in your county, see the National Pipeline Mapping System website [www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov), an online mapping program managed by the federal government.

Pipeline markers are placed along the pipeline route to indicate the approximate location of the line and to identify where the pipeline intersects with a street, highway, railway or river. Markers display the material transported in the line, the name of the pipeline operator and an emergency telephone number.

Integrity Management Programs have been implemented for areas designated as "high consequence areas" in accordance with federal regulations. For more information about CenterPoint Energy pipeline safety programs, our Integrity Management Program, or Emergency Response Plans see our website listed above or by contacting us directly.

For your safety, always call before you dig-drill-blast. Call 811, the Call Before You Dig number, or your local one-call center at least 48 hours (two working days) before you dig. It's easy, it's free and it's the law.

**PRODUCTS TRANSPORTED**

**PRODUCTS TRANSPORTED IN YOUR AREA**

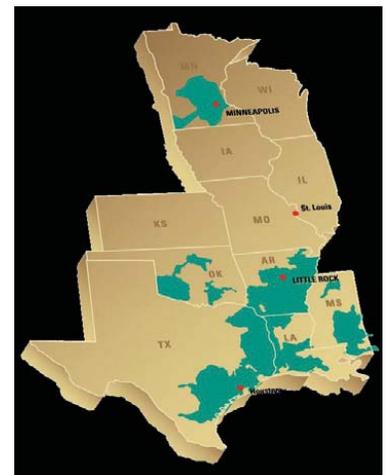
PRODUCT	LEAK TYPE	VAPORS
NATURAL GAS	Gas	Lighter than air and will generally rise and dissipate. May gather in a confined space and travel to a source of ignition.
<b>HEALTH HAZARDS</b>	Natural gas is non-toxic however, in high concentrations it may cause dizziness or asphyxiation without warning. Natural gas leaking into the atmosphere can cause flammable mixtures that can ignite. Keep ignition sources away such as sparks, flames or machinery.	

**PIPELINE MARKER**



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

**SYSTEM MAP**



Three LDCs serving more than 3 million customers in 6 states.