

KNOW THE SIGNS OF A PIPELINE LEAK

The best way to recognize a pipeline leak is by using your eyes, ears and nose.

Signs of a potential leak include:

- Strong petroleum scent or other pungent odor such as sulfur (rotten eggs) if odorant is added
- Dead vegetation, liquid or fire on the ground near the pipeline, dirt being blown into the air, fire or a dense white cloud or fog
- Hissing, gurgling or roaring sound

Some gases are odorless, and odorant cannot always be added. It is important to use your ears and eyes as well as your nose to recognize a potential problem.

INSIDE YOUR HOME



If you have gas appliances and smell sulfur or rotten eggs, you may have a gas leak. Leave the house or apartment immediately. When you are a safe distance away, call 911 and the pipeline company. Do not turn on or off lights, or use electronic devices, including cell phones, in the house or apartment if you suspect a leak.

If you have gas appliances, you may also consider installing a carbon monoxide monitor to detect and prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

OUTSIDE NEAR A PIPELINE RIGHT-OF-WAY

If you see, hear or smell the signs of a potential transmission or gathering pipeline leak near a pipeline right-of-way, leave the area immediately and warn others to stay away. Call 911 and the pipeline company when you are a safe distance away. Do not use automobiles, electronic devices or equipment near a suspected leak.

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YOUR ROLE IN PIPELINE SAFETY

Most serious pipeline incidents are preventable. According to government and industry statistics, improper or unauthorized digging near a pipeline is the most common cause of serious pipeline problems. Calling 811 before digging on your property or near a pipeline right-of-way protects you, your family and your community.

If you have a pipeline easement on your property, protect the pipeline by knowing the details of your easement agreement and avoiding activities that could endanger underground lines, such as planting trees or shrubs or placing buildings or structures on the right-of-way.

If you have gas appliances in your home:

- **Have the lines that connect to these appliances periodically inspected by a professional.** Some distribution pipeline companies can inspect these lines and their connections for you. A licensed plumber can also help.
- **Know about carbon monoxide poisoning and how to prevent it.** Never use natural gas ranges for heating. Using a range as a source of heat can cause dangerous levels of carbon monoxide to build up in your home or building. Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas that is colorless, odorless, tasteless and non-irritating. It can also be toxic. This poisonous gas can cause serious illness and even death. Consider installing a carbon monoxide monitor.

HOW PIPELINE OPERATORS KEEP LINES SAFE



Pipeline companies carefully build and maintain their lines. These operators monitor pipelines around-the-clock.

They place pipeline markers to identify the general location of pipelines and provide an emergency contact number. Operators patrol their lines to identify potential problems by plane and on foot and regularly trim trees and remove shrubs or structures that are too close to the right-of-way and can impact safety.

Pipeline companies often take samples of the products they transport to identify early signs of a pipeline problem. And they employ a number of preventative maintenance procedures to test valves and visually map the inside of pipelines using sophisticated technology. In addition, pipeline operators train their employees how to quickly identify and respond to a pipeline problem. They also invest in communication programs to increase the general public's awareness of pipelines in their community.