

Pipeline Safety

for Excavators and Contractors

Leak Identification



SIGHT- You may notice a pool of liquid, a white cloud or fog, discolored plants or grasses, flames or vapors near the pipeline, an oily sheen, or water bubbling without an obvious reason.



HEAR- You may hear a hissing or bubbling sound.



SMELL- An unusual odor or scent of gas, petroleum liquids or a slight hydrocarbon smell -- natural gas is primarily odorless in gathering and transmission pipelines until the rotten egg smell (mercaptan) is added prior to local distribution. Landfill gas has a distinct odor of its own, which can actually be stronger than the mercaptan and is a more pungent and unpleasant odor. Natural gas liquids may have a strange or unusual smell with a strong petroleum odor. At low concentrations, CO₂ is an odorless gas. At higher concentrations, it has a sharp, acidic odor.

How To Respond And Report A Pipeline Emergency

- **DO** leave the area immediately, moving upwind and away from the product.
- **DO** notify emergency response personnel by calling 911 and the operator.
- **DO NOT** operate a vehicle, electronic devices or any item that can create a spark.
- **DO NOT** breathe the released product in or make contact with the product.
- **DO NOT** attempt to put out any fires burning at the pipeline.



Pipeline Purpose And Reliability

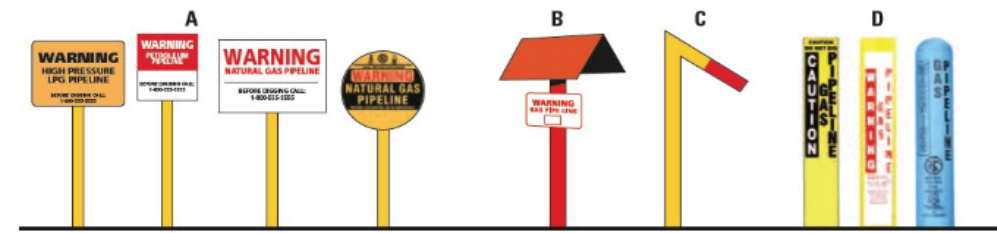
The United States has the largest pipeline network in the world and pipelines deliver the raw materials that are processed into fuel that powers out lives. Pipelines are one of the safest and most cost-effective ways to transport these products. Pipeline operators are subject to many Federal and State regulations, as well as, industry standards. These regulations and standards deal with all phases of the pipeline operations.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

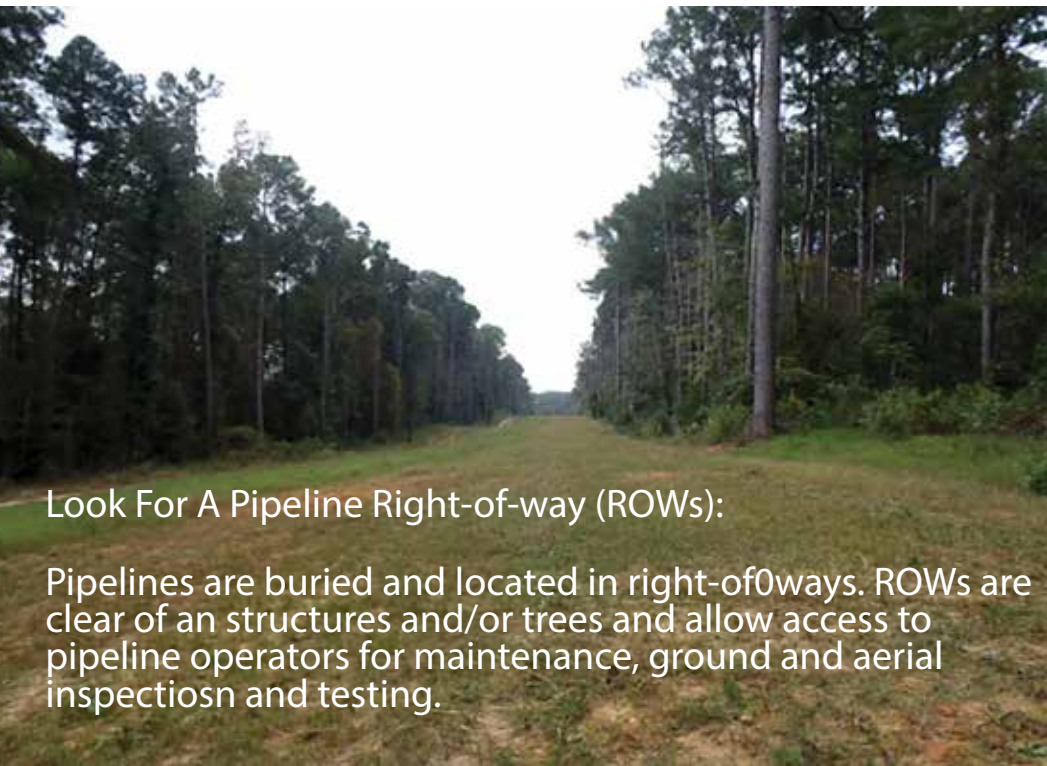
How Do You Know Where A Pipeline Is Located?

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. These markers include the pipeline operator name, emergency number, and the product being transported. Do not try to guess the route or location of the pipeline from where the markers are placed, because pipeline markers do not indicate the depth and exact location of a pipeline.



A. Located near roads, railroads and along the pipeline ROWs

B. Marker for pipeline patrol plane C. Pipeline casing vent D. Painted metal or plastic posts



Look For A Pipeline Right-of-way (ROWs):

Pipelines are buried and located in right-of-ways. ROWs are clear of an structures and/or trees and allow access to pipeline operators for maintenance, ground and aerial inspection and testing.

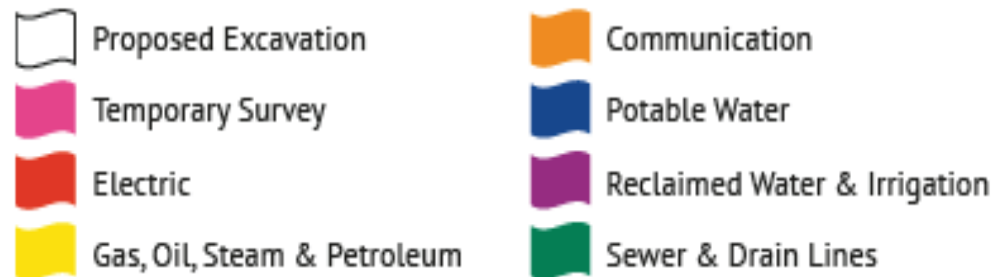
Preventing Pipeline Damage - Call 811 before You Dig

Unsafe digging and excavating around pipelines is a major cause of pipeline damage. State laws require a notification to the local one call center (811) prior to any soil moving activity. This includes fencing, landscaping, or any major construction project.

Call 811 before you dig.

Wait the state required amount of time to allow all utility companies to mark the location of thier underground facilities. (See Chart Below)

Respect the utility markers and dig cwith care.



What To Do If You Are Digging And Disturb A Pipeline

Even if you cause what seems to be only minor damage to a pipeline, notify the pipeline company immediately. A gouge, scrape, dent or crease to the pipe or coating may cause a future break or leak. It is imperative that an damage to the line is inspected and repaired.