

# NATURAL

# GAS

# PIPELINE

# SAFETY



Natural gas is a safe, reliable, clean-burning fuel. NuEnergy needs your help to ensure the continued safety of our pipeline system. The information in this document can help you avoid and respond to pipeline damage.

## **NATURAL GAS PIPELINE MARKERS**

Sometimes pipelines are marked by above-ground markers, but it is possible that some are not. NuEnergy uses these markers to indicate the approximate locations of gas pipelines.

Damage to pipelines occurs most often when people dig near a pipeline location. Pipelines can be accidentally hit, dented, scraped or gouged. **If you are operating**

**digging equipment and make contact with the pipeline, stop your excavation and contact us immediately.**

### **WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF A POSSIBLE GAS PIPELINE LEAK?**

- An Odor similar to the smell of rotten eggs.
- A blowing or hissing sound.
- Dust blowing from a hole in the ground.
- Continuous bubbling in wet or flooded areas.
- Dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area.
- Discolored standing water or a sheen on standing water.
- Abnormally dry or hardened soil.
- Flames, if a leak has ignited.

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF A PIPELINE LEAK OCCURS?**

- Leave the area immediately.
- Call the number on the pipeline marker **(989) 705-2818** from a safe location away from the leak.
- Do not re-enter the building or area until you have been given authorization to do so.
- Do not use telephones, doorbells, light switches, pagers or other electrical equipment. They could cause a spark and ignite the gas.
- Avoid all open flames.
- Do not smoke.
- Do not attempt to locate the source of the leak.
- Do not attempt to extinguish any flames. Burning gas will not explode.
- Do not start up or shut down any machinery, vehicles or equipment.

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF A PIPELINE IS DAMAGED?**

A damaged pipeline can leak natural gas, possibility causing fires, explosions or asphyxiation. The following situations or actions can cause uncontrolled escaping gas:

- Extreme natural events such as floods and tornadoes.
- Fire, explosion or accident near a pipeline.

- Collapsed buildings that break or damage gas pipelines.
- Water main breaks that weaken roadways and pavement, damaging gas pipelines.
- Under or over pressure in the gas pipelines.
- Equipment failure.

## **WHAT STEPS SHOULD I TAKE IF I'M PLANNING TO EXCAVATE?**

### **CALL 811 FIRST.**

1. **Call 811** if you are planning to excavate so underground utilities can be marked.
2. **Wait until marks are present.** Allow at least three business days for utility companies to mark the approximate location of the underground lines in your work area. These marks may be in the form of paint, flags or stakes.
3. **Once the pipelines are marked, you can safely expose pipeline/s by hand-digging,** not with earth moving equipment. Before using any power equipment, carefully hand-dig where the utility lines are marked to expose them. If you are unable to locate the utility lines we will have a crew do that for you at no charge to you. Please call our emergency number at **(989) 705-2818**.
4. **Respect the marks or flagging.** Stay aware of all underground utility line locations, even if you are not working near them. Never drive heavy vehicles or store materials over utility lines, whether they are marked or not.

For more information, call our emergency number at **(989) 705-2818** or visit the National Pipeline Mapping System at [www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov).