

Living Safely with Natural Gas Pipelines



763-784-6751

Pipeline Information

Centennial Utilities operates underground natural gas pipelines in your area for distribution purposes only.

We are providing this information as part of our pipeline damage preventative program to our neighbors who live and work in the vicinity of our facilities. Please share this information with others.

What is Natural Gas?

Natural gas is the cleanest burning fossil fuel. It moves silently, safely and efficiently through an extensive network of interstate pipelines in the United States, and Centennial Utilities is part of that network.

The following are some reassuring facts about natural gas:

- Natural gas is not a poison or toxic.
- Natural gas is colorless and odorless in its natural state.
- Natural gas will not ignite on its own. To burn, natural gas requires both a precise amount of oxygen and an ignition source.
- Natural gas is lighter than air and will rise and diffuse rapidly.

Are Pipelines Safe?

Natural gas pipelines are the safest method of transporting energy. Centennial Utilities' distribution lines lie underground, virtually unseen as they deliver large volumes of gas to customers. Although Centennial Utilities follows strict pipeline safety procedures, it is still important for everyone living and working near gas pipelines to know basic safety information.

Pipelines are part of the critical infrastructure of the United States energy grid. Pipeline companies and employees across the nation continue to monitor and patrol the pipelines regularly. Please call local law enforcement if you see anything out of the ordinary in your area.

What is a Pipeline Right-of-Way?

A pipeline right-of-way is the strip of land over a pipeline. A right-of-way agreement between our company and a property owner is called an easement. Easements provide our pipeline company with permanent, limited access to the land to enable us to operate, test, inspect, maintain and protect our pipeline.

Can I Build on a Right-of-Way?

Pipeline right-of-ways must be kept free from structures and other obstructions. If a pipeline crosses your property, please do not plant trees or high shrubs on or near the right-of-way without first having our personnel mark the pipeline, stake the easement and explain construction guidelines to you.

It is a crime for any person to deliberately damage, destroy or remove any pipeline sign or right-of-way marker.

Recognize Signs of a Natural Gas Pipeline Leak

Leaks from a natural gas pipeline are extremely rare. Year after year the National Transportation Safety Board statistics support the industry's safety record. However, it is important to know how to recognize the signs of a leak if one were to occur in your area. Be aware of the following signs of a natural gas leak:



Sight

- vegetation, over or near the pipeline, which appears to be dead or dying for no apparent reason;
- dust blowing from a hole in the ground, or flames if the leak is ignited;
- water continuously bubbling at a creek, pond, river or any wet area;
- exposed pipeline which may have been caused by a natural disaster such as flood or earthquake.



Sound

- a hissing, whistling or roaring sound.



Smell

- a gaseous odor or unusual smell.

Natural gas is colorless and odorless, but our pipelines contain odorized gas. The gas will have a slight "rotten egg" smell.

If You Suspect a Gas Leak

If you suspect a natural gas leak inside your home or on your service line, immediately evacuate your home and call Centennial Utilities at **763-784-6751** from a phone that is clear of the area. After hours, call **911** and ask for Centennial Utilities.

- **Do not** go near the area and keep others away from the site.
- **Do not** start equipment or motor vehicles in the area. If the equipment or vehicle is running, do not attempt to turn it off.
- **Do not** operate anything that may ignite a gas leak, including cellular telephones, lighters, flashlights or two-way radios.
- **Do not** attempt to shut off any valves or extinguish any fires.
- **Do not** ring doorbells to alert others of the leak. Knock with your hand.

Remember...
Before you dig, notify
Gopher State One Call at

811



**This is a FREE service
and it's also the law.**

Prevent Pipeline Damage

Because natural gas pipelines run underground, line markers are used to indicate their approximate location. However, these markers do not indicate how deep the pipeline is buried.

Never assume Centennial Utilities' distribution pipelines lie in a straight line. The route can take twists and turns between markers.

Excavation work, digging or grading are the most frequent causes of pipeline damage. Whether you are planning a large project, erecting a fence or simply landscaping your property, you should protect your safety and the safety of those around you by contacting Gopher State One Call at **811** before digging.

Gopher State One Call provides a free service that enables you to proceed safely with your digging, trenching, excavating, drilling or other projects. When Gopher State One Call is called, Centennial Utilities personnel will visit your worksite to mark pipeline locations.

Failure to contact Gopher State One Call in advance could result in unsafe conditions during and after your work.

If you accidentally hit or damage our pipeline, no matter how minor the contact, please call Centennial Utilities immediately at 763-784-6751. A gouge, scrape, dent or crease in the pipe or its coating may cause a safety problem. It is imperative that we inspect and repair any damage to the pipeline, no matter how minor it may seem.



811