

How to Recognize a Pipeline Leak:

LOOK for Releases Around a Pipeline

- ◆ Liquid pipeline: pools of liquid along the pipeline, oily sheen on water surfaces or continuous bubbling in wet or flooded areas.
- ◆ Liquefied petroleum gas pipeline: dead vegetation or blowing dirt at the release, or a vaporous cloud or fog that travels low to the ground with possible frost formation even in warm water.
- ◆ Natural gas pipeline: dead or discolored plants in an otherwise healthy area of vegetation, frozen ground in warm weather, blowing dirt near a pipeline, or fire coming from the ground or burning above it.

LISTEN for Unusual Sounds

- ◆ The sound can range from a quiet hissing to a loud roar, depending on the pressure, the type of pipeline and the size of the leak.

SMELL of Unexpected Odors

- ◆ A crude oil or refined product liquid release may have an unusual smell or petroleum odor, however some products can be odorless while still toxic.
- ◆ A release from a natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas pipeline may or may not have a smell.
- ◆ Petroleum scent or odors such as sulfur (rotten eggs) or mild, unusual fragrance.

Contacts:

Call 9-1-1 immediately if you suspect a leak coming from a pipeline. Wait until the fire department responds to determine the appropriate protective actions to take.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has safety, regulatory and enforcement authority over intrastate hazardous liquid pipelines. OSFM Headquarters can be reached at (916) 653-5123. <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/>

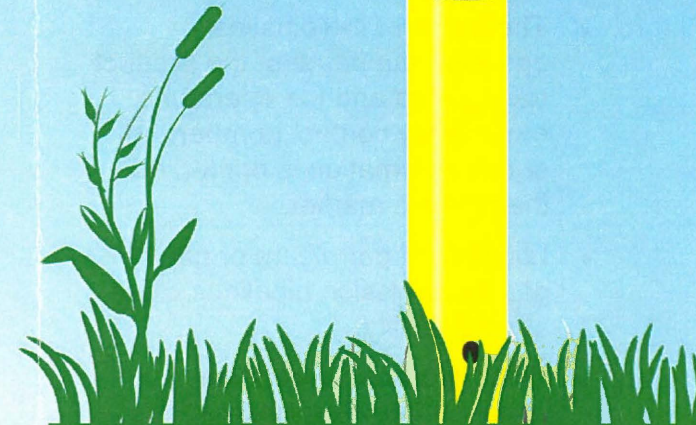
The California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has regulatory authority for natural gas pipelines. The PUC can be reached at (800) 848-5580. <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/>

If you have questions about the information in this brochure, please contact Contra Costa County Community Awareness Emergency Response (CAER) at (925) 313-9296. <http://www.cococaer.org/>

CAER is a non-profit public benefit corporation of public emergency response agencies, local government officials and facilities and businesses that use, store, handle, produce or transport hazardous materials.



PIPELINE SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PLANNING



Pipeline Safety and Emergency Planning

Facilities like yours commonly have an emergency plan in place for many potentially dangerous situations including fires, earthquakes, hazardous weather events, and even acts or threats of violence on your property. Although rare, natural gas or petroleum pipelines can rupture, or explode and catch fire threatening the safety of nearby homes and facilities. If your facility is located near a major gas or petroleum pipeline it is vital that your safety plan provides emergency procedures for your employees in the event of a pipeline rupture, explosion or fire.

What to include in your Emergency Plan:

- ◆ The name of the pipeline operator, the name of the product transported and the operator's emergency contact number. All of this information is printed on the pipeline marker.
- ◆ Location of petroleum or natural gas transmission pipelines close to your facility.
- ◆ The reference information obtained from pipeline markers. This information identifies the

pipeline operator and their emergency contact information.

- ◆ The warning signs of a pipeline leak.
- ◆ Who to notify if you suspect a pipeline leak. This includes the pipeline operator(s) and calling 9-1-1.
- ◆ Preparing safe responses to a pipeline leak: how you would either Shelter-in-Place or safely evacuate your facility depending on what you are instructed to do by the Fire Department.
- ◆ Instructions on how to Shelter-in-Place if instructed to do so. Shelter-in-Place means to Shelter, Shut and Listen:
 - Stay inside.
 - Close all windows and secure doors (locking provides a tighter seal).
 - Turn off all ventilation systems, such as heating or air conditioning.
 - If there are gaps in windows or doors, seal with tape or damp towels.
 - Have an AM radio for emergencies and tune to KCBS 740 for information.
- ◆ Plan your evacuation routes in and out of your facility.

- Consider a backup plan if there is only one route in and out of your facility.
 - Know what routes you can take to avoid the pipeline.
 - Conduct drills or tabletop exercises to simulate and test your emergency response.
- ◆ Ask your local Fire Department to do a site visit and review your Emergency Plan.

Before You Dig



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

811 is the phone number you call before digging to protect yourself and others from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines.

811 is the federally designated number to call before you dig that helps homeowners and professionals avoid damaging vital utilities. When you make the **free** call to 811 a few days before you dig, you'll help prevent unintended consequences such as injury to you or your family, damage to your property, utility service outages to the entire neighborhood and potential fines and repair costs.

