



## Pipeline Safety and Emergency Response



[www.sceg.com/gassafety](http://www.sceg.com/gassafety)

# Pipeline Emergency Response

## A Team Effort

At SCE&G our first priority is the same as yours — public safety. While we design, install, test, operate and maintain our natural gas pipelines to meet or exceed regulatory standards, we believe in comprehensive planning in the unlikely event of an incident.

This brochure is intended to give you some fundamental emergency response information regarding pipelines. We hope that you will keep it readily accessible for future reference.

## Pipelines in Your Community

Our pipelines transport natural gas to approximately 300,000 customers throughout our service territory in South Carolina. There are millions of miles of energy pipelines in North America and, according to National Transportation Safety Board statistics, pipelines are the safest and most economical method of transporting products.

SCE&G is committed to the safe operation of its pipelines in your community. We monitor the operation of our pipelines 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We maintain a safe, reliable system through routine inspections, corrosion protection, maintenance and testing programs, public awareness and education. For additional information about our pipelines, visit [sceg.com/gassafety](http://sceg.com/gassafety).

## Identifying Our Pipelines

Our pipelines are located underground and most can be easily identified by markers and signage. While the marker does not identify the exact location of the pipeline, it does indicate the general vicinity of the line along with emergency contact information. It is important to note that multiple lines may exist in a single right-of-way or above-ground facility and we recommend you contact each of the pipeline operators in the vicinity of any pipeline incident. Please be aware that not all pipelines are marked. Underground pipelines may still be present even in the absence of pipeline markers.





# Pipeline Emergency Response

Please Post This Important Information

## Damage Prevention

SCE&G regularly patrols its lines to monitor for construction activity or other encroachments that may present a potential threat. Careless digging poses the biggest threat to our pipelines and to people. South Carolina state law requires all excavators to notify the one-call center 72 hours (three working days) prior to beginning any excavation activity. Excavators must call 911 if they damage a pipeline and a leak results.



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

## Natural Gas

Natural gas is composed primarily of methane. It is lighter than air, colorless and odorless. An odorant called Mercaptan, which some say smells like rotten eggs, is added to the gas. The natural gas in our system typically operates between 35 and 45 psi, but can be transported at pressures up to 1,200 psi.

Vapor density: **0.60**  
Flammable range: **4 – 15 percent**  
Ignition temperature: **900 – 1,170 degrees**

## Leak Indications

- Brown or discolored vegetation amid healthy plants
- Dirt being blown into the air
- Fire at or below ground level
- Bubbles coming from bodies of water
- A loud roaring or hissing sound
- A rotten egg odor

## Emergency Response Recommendations

- Isolate and secure the area and restrict access.
- Do not open or close any pipeline valves or operate any other associated equipment.
- You may close an appliance valve (typically a red handle valve located inside the structure at the appliance). However, as with all closed pipeline and appliance valves, do not reopen a closed valve.
- Using combustible gas detectors, establish a perimeter of the impacted area.
- Notify the operator(s) of the pipeline using the emergency number on the markers or signs.
- Position apparatus and equipment at a safe distance and upwind from the incident site.
- Do not extinguish burning natural gas fires — protect exposures and coordinate isolation operations with pipeline personnel.



## Pressure-relieving Devices

On occasion, a pressure-relieving device may activate at an above-ground facility. These devices are designed to relieve pressure on the system in the event of over-pressurization. Notify us and we will dispatch company personnel to respond. Natural gas is lighter than air and will readily dissipate in the atmosphere. Under no circumstances should a pressure-relieving device be capped or valved off.

## Incident Command System

SCE&G's response to a pipeline emergency is directed towards safety and includes isolating, minimizing and controlling the pipeline release. We maintain comprehensive emergency response plans at our facilities. Our personnel are trained to respond and communicate with emergency response agencies within the incident command structure.

## Media Relations

Pipeline incidents are rare, but when they do occur, they can attract media attention. SCE&G's public affairs personnel can be reached 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### Important Numbers

Pipeline Emergency: **1-800-815-0083**  
General Information: **1-800-815-0083**  
Media Relations: **1-800-562-9308**

## Additional Information

For information about transmission pipelines in your area, visit the National Pipeline Mapping System's Web site at [www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov).

For more information about SCE&G or pipeline safety, visit [sceg.com](http://sceg.com).



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