



Pipeline Safety and Awareness for Public Officials



www.sceg.com/gassafety

Pipeline Safety and Awareness

A Team Effort

In your role as a public official, we know that it's important for you to have current and accurate information about natural gas pipeline safety. That's why SCE&G is providing you with this brochure – to ensure that you know about the pipelines in your community and the steps to take in recognizing, preventing or reacting to a pipeline incident, if needed. It also highlights the efforts we take to ensure the safe operation of our facilities.

Additionally, federal pipeline safety regulations establish strict guidelines for natural gas utilities in how we communicate to various audiences about natural gas and pipeline safety. This communication includes public officials. Please take a few moments to read through this brochure and note the emergency contact information provided. You can also visit sceg.com/gassafety for more information.

Identifying Pipelines In Your Community

SCE&G transports natural gas to approximately 300,000 customers throughout our service territory. And although rare, pipeline accidents can happen. While federal

statistics indicate that natural gas pipelines are the safest and most environmentally friendly form of energy transportation in use today, it's still important for those who live and work near pipelines to be aware of these facilities.

The existence of a pipeline is not always obvious. Some pipelines are noticeable because of clearly visible pipeline markers and an established pipeline right-of-way. SCE&G places markers at select locations and intervals along the pipeline right-of-way. These markers are visible where pipelines cross roadways, streams, some property lines and various other locations.

It's important to note that pipeline markers might not identify the precise location of a pipeline – only the general route. And the absence of a pipeline marker does not mean that an underground pipeline isn't present. Therefore, 811 should always be called prior to beginning a digging, excavating or grading project.





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Please Post This Important Information

Steps for Managing Encroachments

One of the greatest dangers to the integrity of a pipeline is encroachment by human activity. You can take the following steps in your community to manage pipeline encroachments:

- 1) Require developers and planners to work with pipeline operators when developing plans for housing projects, schools, shopping centers or other infrastructure.
- 2) Use land-use practices that take into consideration pipeline facilities and the potential activities around those areas.
- 3) Be aware of existing pipelines and other underground facilities. Keep records of the facilities on official planning maps.
- 4) Notify the pipeline operator when work will be done near facilities.
- 5) Coordinate local emergency response plans with pipeline operators.
- 6) Keep open lines of communication with pipeline operators.

Emergency Preparedness

We regularly share information with emergency response officials in your community so that we're

prepared to jointly respond in the event of an emergency. Emergency responders receive information from SCE&G on how to: respond to a pipeline emergency; assess hazardous situations; protect the safety of people and the environment; contact SCE&G in the event of an emergency.

In turn, emergency responders provide us with information regarding their response procedures, local resources, overall geography of the area, and appropriate communication channels during an emergency.

Call Before You Dig

South Carolina state law requires a person to call their area one-call center at least three days prior to beginning digging or excavation activities. To request that an underground facility be located and marked, call 811.



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

At no cost, technicians will mark the location of utility lines on the property. Digging or excavating may begin once all lines are marked. If the pipeline is accidentally struck during the work, no matter how minor it may seem, call SCE&G immediately at **1-800-815-0083**.



Responding to an Emergency

Knowing how to recognize and respond to a potential pipeline emergency is critical. There are key signs that you should be familiar with in order to properly recognize a potential natural gas leak:

- A rotten egg odor
- Dead or discolored vegetation over or near a pipeline.
- A hissing, whistling or roaring sound near a gas appliance or the pipeline
- Dirt or debris being blown into the air
- Persistent bubbles in streams, ponds or wet areas

If you or someone in your community detects a gas leak:

- Leave the area immediately
- From a safe place, call SCE&G at **1-800-815-0083** and 911
- Warn others to stay away
- Do not engage in any activity that could create heat or sparks, including turning any machinery on or off

Ensuring Integrity

SCE&G uses a combination of advanced technology and management processes to identify and mitigate risks that may cause harm to a pipeline. Risks can occur from natural conditions and outside forces. We address each of the risks in different ways, following industry best practices and regulatory requirements.

Congress recently passed the Pipeline Improvement Protection, Enforcement and Safety (PIPES) Act. This legislation builds on existing requirements for operators regarding the manner in which pipelines are designed, operated, maintained and protected.

Previously, entities such as municipalities, local and state transportation departments and specific industries were exempt from using the one-call procedures. This is no longer the case. The PIPES Act does not include any exemptions when it comes to having underground utilities properly marked.

If you would like additional information on federal pipeline regulations, visit www.phmsa.dot.gov/regulations.

National Pipeline Mapping System

The information in this brochure takes into consideration both higher volume transmission pipelines and lower volume distribution pipelines. Maps of the higher volume transmission pipelines are available through the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS).

To learn more about the transmission facilities in your area, visit www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov. Click on "NPMS Public Map Viewer" and follow the instructions.