INFORMATION FOR LOCAL LEADERS AND PUBLIC WORKS, PERMITTING AND PLANNING OFFICIALS

NATURAL GAS SAFETY INFORMATION ENCLOSED

Permitting, planning and excavation decisions impact individuals living and working near pipelines.

Black Hills Energy
Emergency Number: 800-694-8989
One-call requirements: CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

To keep your community safe, please help us promote the following steps:

1. **Call your state’s One-Call center before you plan to dig.** This free service will notify all utilities in your area of your plans to dig. The toll-free, nationwide Call Before You Dig number is 811. Although the response time is generally within 48 hours (two business days), please refer to each state’s One-Call laws for specific locate requirements.

2. **Please review your state’s One-Call laws for specific call, locate and dig requirements.**
   - Arkansas: arkonecall.com
   - Colorado: colorado811.org
   - Iowa: iowaonecall.com
   - Kansas: kansas811.com
   - Montana: montana811.org
   - Nebraska: ne1call.com
   - South Dakota: sdonecall.com
   - Wyoming: onecallofwyoming.com

3. **Pre-mark the excavation area using white paint or flags.** Within two business days, someone from each utility will arrive at your site to mark the approximate location of buried lines with paint or flags at no cost to you.

4. **Dig with care.** Lines cannot be exactly pinpointed and the depth can’t be precisely determined. Please use extreme care when digging anywhere near the markings.

5. **Call to have the locations remarked for free** if the original ones are disturbed or your project will be delayed by more than seven days.

### Just one nick is enough

Digging-related damage is the leading cause of pipeline incidents. Even a slight nick can cause steel lines to corrode or plastic lines to weaken, causing a pipeline emergency days, weeks or even years after what seems to be the slightest of damage.

If you disturb, nick, chip, scratch or dent a pipeline or coating, immediately leave the area and warn others to stay away. From a safe location, **call 911** and report it immediately to **800-694-8989**. In Arkansas, Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming you must also call **811**.

### Pipeline location information

Most natural gas pipelines are buried out of sight, but they should never be out of mind.

Pipeline signs are placed where pipelines intersect public roads, river crossings and railways. They explain what the pipeline carries and provide the pipeline operator’s name and phone number in case of an emergency.

Pipeline signs do not indicate the exact location or depth of the pipeline and may not be present in certain areas. **Always call 811**, even when you’re digging by a marked pipeline.
Emergency preparedness
We maintain close relationships with local emergency response officials and provide them with detailed information about responding to a gas-related incident. The information that we provide includes our first priority of public safety, emergency contact information, how to access our emergency response plans, and the availability of emergency drills and exercises. Our partnerships help prevent incidents and keep us constantly prepared to respond immediately and effectively in the unlikely event of an emergency.

Our first priority is to protect life; second, to protect property; and third, to maintain service. If a pipeline emergency occurs in your community, call 911 first and then notify our 24-hour emergency number.

Integrity management and high-consequence areas
Your role as a public official
Our integrity management plan focuses on areas our industry defines as high-consequence areas. These are places people congregate, including playgrounds, hospitals, churches, schools, daycare facilities, retirement homes and correctional facilities. Our integrity management plan is designed to provide a safe and reliable transmission pipeline system by monitoring and acting upon threats to pipeline safety in a systematic way. The plan provides for an initial assessment of pipeline integrity and periodic confirmation of the pipeline’s integrity through continuous inspection, testing and assessment of historical data.

For a one-page overview of our integrity management plan, please go to www.blackhillsenergy.com/pipeline-integrity.

The right of way
In your role as a public official, we need your help to protect the rights of way that all utilities are granted by agreement with local officials. These rights of way provide utilities with access to work on their lines so they can respond effectively to emergencies.

Please help us to maintain the rights of way by informing the public of right of way rules and limitations and ensuring that rights of way are kept clear of obstructions such as trees, shrubs, overgrowth, buildings, fences, structures or any other encroachments that might interfere with access to the pipeline. Encroachments on the right of way inhibit the company’s ability to reduce third party damages, provide right of way surveillance, and perform routine maintenance and required federal/state inspections. Maintaining a pipeline right of way free of encroachments is an essential element of maintaining pipeline integrity and safety.

Decisions public officials make about public or private use of land along the right of way can impact public safety. Pipeline incidents present risks that may impact public welfare, property, the environment and local economy far beyond the edges of the right of way. Contact us with any questions about the right of way or if you plan to dig or build where the right of way could be involved.

Hazard awareness and prevention measures
Natural gas is a clean-burning, efficient fuel that is colorless, tasteless and lighter than air. It’s also odorless in its natural state, so to help people detect leaks, utilities add a foul-smelling odorant to the fuel before sending it to all urban and most, but not all, rural consumers.

Natural gas is mostly methane, which is flammable and explosive when mixed with oxygen in proportions identified by upper and lower limits. For natural gas, the lower explosive limit is 5 percent gas in air, and the upper explosive limit is 15 percent gas in air. Outside of that range, gas is either too rich or too lean to burn.

However, just because the mixture is outside the explosive limit in one area does not mean an explosive mixture does not exist somewhere else in the structure. Even a tiny spark can ignite the gas where the mixture falls inside the explosive limit. To protect the pipelines and communities we serve, we perform employee training, regular maintenance and testing, corrosion protection, and inspections to check for leaks and damage.

For more specific information about the potential hazards and how-to prevention measures, call our customer service number at 800-890-5554.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRODUCT</th>
<th>LEAK TYPE</th>
<th>VAPORS</th>
<th>HEALTH HAZARDS</th>
<th>FIRE HAZARDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural Gas</td>
<td>Gas</td>
<td>Lighter than air</td>
<td>Extremely high concentrations may cause irritation or asphyxiation</td>
<td>Extremely flammable and easily ignited by heat, sparks or flames; explosive in enclosed areas</td>
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Pipeline purpose and reliability
Natural gas pipelines are the safest way to move natural gas from place to place. In the United States, a vast network of pipelines delivers the many benefits of natural gas energy to millions of consumers nationwide.

Gathering lines transport gas from the production site to processing facilities and connect to transmission lines that carry gas from one part of the state to another. Our distribution lines run throughout neighborhoods and connect to homes and businesses. Pipeline operators follow stringent safety standards with regard to design, construction, operation, maintenance and security. We regularly patrol our pipelines and follow a carefully planned maintenance and replacement schedule.

Natural gas has been a proven, popular solution to our country’s energy needs for more than a century.

Natural gas is:
• An abundant source of energy, with U.S. supplies projected to last at least another 100 years.
• The cleanest fossil fuel, placing it at the forefront of green energy initiatives.
• A domestic source of energy found throughout North America, helping to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.
• A reliable source of energy, with outages seldom occurring, usually confined to a relatively small area, and generally lasting less than a few hours.

Black Hills Energy conducts a pipeline public awareness program on behalf of these companies and towns:
• Absolute Energy, LLC
• Ag Processing, Inc. – Mason City, IA
• Ag Processing, Inc. – Algona, IA
• Archer Daniels Midland Company/Fremont
• Arkalon Ethanol, LLC
• City of Abbyville, KS
• City of Waukee, IA
• Corn LP
• DuPont
• Flint Hills Resources
• Green Plains Ethanol
• Haven Steel
• Homeland Energy
• Mid-Kansas Electric Co
• POET Bio-refining
• Sioux City Brick & Tile
• SIRE, LLC
• Sunflower Electric Power Co
• Town of Aguilar, CO

Additional information
• For a list of natural gas service providers and pipeline operators in your area, visit www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov.
• Learn more about our gathering, transmission and larger distribution pipelines, including un-odorized line segments, in relation to the address you specify at www.pipelinesnearby.org.
• Visit our website at www.blackhillsenergy.com.
• For more information about pipelines, compressor stations or storage facilities in your community, contact us at 888-890-5554.
• For excavation practices near underground facilities, visit www.commongroundalliance.com.
• For more information about working safely around pipelines, go to www.pipesafet.org.

Black Hills Energy Emergency Number:
800-694-8989
Important numbers to have handy:

Black Hills Energy emergency number: **800-694-8989**
Public service emergency number: **911**
Black Hills Energy customer service: **888-890-5554**
National One-Call (Call Before You Dig): **811**

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