



PIPELINE PRESS

Brought to you by New Jersey's natural gas utilities



Safe, Sound and Underground

Clean, efficient natural gas provides one-fourth of our nation's energy, serving the needs of almost 70 million customers. The time-tested delivery system used to transport this energy has earned an outstanding safety record. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, natural gas pipelines are the safest method of energy transportation.

Local distribution companies receive natural gas from interstate transmission companies at a gate station. From there, the natural gas is transported through high-pressure transmission lines to regulating stations and then continues its journey through underground pipelines, or mains, usually located under local streets and highways. From these distribution mains, natural gas runs into homes and businesses via small diameter service lines. These pipelines quietly, reliably and efficiently deliver natural gas for household, commercial and industrial use.

Although rare, damage to these pipelines can occur as the result of excavation, worker error and acts of nature. Potential consequences from a release of natural gas due to pipeline damage include fires and environmental and property damage. To guard against such damages, the natural gas industry invests \$7 billion each year in safety measures, following tough federal and state requirements for design, construction, testing, inspection operations and maintenance of pipeline systems.



**New Jersey
Natural Gas**

**Gas Leaks: 1-800-GAS-LEAK
(1-800-427-5325)**

**All other calls: 1-800-221-0051
www.njliving.com**



Elizabethtown Gas

**Gas Leaks: 1-800-492-4009
All other calls: 1-800-242-5830**

www.elizabethtowngas.com



PSEG

**Gas Leaks: 1-800-436-PSEG
(1-800-436-7734)**

**All other calls: 1-800-436-PSEG
(1-800-436-7734)**

www.pseg.com



South Jersey Gas

**Gas Leaks: 1-800-582-7060
All other calls: 1-888-766-9900**

www.sjindustries.com/sjg

Be a partner in safety.

Join us in keeping our energy infrastructure safe and sound. Follow the instructions outlined in this newsletter to help us identify potential problems before they occur and learn what to do in the event of an emergency.



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

It's FREE and it's the LAW!

According to the American Gas Association, the leading cause of pipeline damage is excavation. At least three days prior to outdoor construction or digging, contractors and property owners – whoever is excavating – must call New Jersey One Call at **811** or **1-800-272-1000** for a free markout of underground utility lines.

Wait for the site to be marked prior to digging, respect all marks and hand dig within two feet of buried piping. Careless digging can damage underground utilities, causing disruption of vital services, property damage and even possible injury. Taking the proper steps to avoid damage can prevent expensive repairs, project delays and fines which can reach \$25,000.

Look, Listen – and Smell

Learn to recognize the signs of a potential natural gas leak.

Look for discolored or dead vegetation, bubbling in standing water and dirt blowing into the air.

Listen for an unusual hissing or roaring sound.

Smell the odor of rotten eggs.

Suspect a Natural Gas Leak?

- DO NOT use anything that may cause a spark including lighters, matches, cigarettes, cellular and landline telephones, flashlights and any motorized equipment.
- Evacuate everyone from the area quickly.
- From a safe place, call your local utility at the number listed in this newsletter or 911.
- Do not attempt to operate pipeline valves.
- Stay away from the area until your utility has declared it safe.

What is a ROW?

The strip of land over a transmission pipeline is known as the pipeline right-of-way (ROW). Local utility companies maintain the ROW to ensure the safety of the pipeline. Maintenance activities include clearing the ROW, which typically includes mowing a 20 to 50 feet wide area and, in some cases, removing trees. Utility employees also regularly patrol the ROW to look for damages or activity by excavators.

If the ROW crosses your property, please be sure that any fencing enclosing the area has gates to allow utility employees to gain direct access. The ROW must also be free of structures or obstructions so your utility can operate, test, inspect, maintain and protect the transmission lines. Prior to doing any work on a transmission line ROW, you must contact your local utility at the number listed in this newsletter.

If you see anyone damaging pipeline facilities, immediately call your local utility and 911.

Location ... Location ... Location



Most transmission pipelines are buried underground on private property and in the roadways and are marked with yellow signs, flags or posts that indicate their general location. These pipeline markers also include an emergency telephone number that is staffed seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

Pipeline markers do not indicate how deep a pipeline is buried or how many lines are in the area. Since vandalism and accidental damage to the markers can occur, never rely solely on the presence or absence of pipeline markers. Always call New Jersey One Call at **811** or **1-800-272-1000**, before you dig near a pipeline or anywhere else.

Remember, it's a federal offense to willingly damage, remove or destroy a pipeline marker. If you notice a pipeline marker has been tampered with, please call your local utility immediately.