



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

Safety is Our Top Priority!

Natural gas is one of the nation's safest fuels, helping to keep nearly 70 million homes warm and businesses running nationwide.

The National Transportation Safety Board, a federal government agency, deems the 2.4 million miles of underground pipeline used every day to deliver environmentally friendly natural gas across our country to be the safest energy-delivery system, with a record unparalleled by any other mode of energy transportation.

As our communities expand, so does our nation's energy infrastructure. Chances are, even if you aren't a natural gas customer, you live, work or own property near a natural gas pipeline. These pipelines play a vital role in delivering the energy that fuels our daily lives.

The number of homes and businesses that run on natural gas is expected to increase 20 percent by 2030 in part because it is a highly efficient, clean, reliable, domestically produced product, **but also because it's safe.**

In testament, the nation's most critical buildings, the Pentagon, the White House and the Capitol, all use natural gas.

A nationwide analysis by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) indicates that there are far fewer fatalities on average each year due to natural gas transmission and gathering pipelines accidents than all other categories of accidental death including weather-related, poisonings and fires and burns. FERC concludes that natural gas pipelines continue to be a safe, reliable means of energy transportation. Because of its extraordinary safety record and its buried infrastructure, natural gas seems to attract national attention only on those very rare occasions when something

goes wrong, as it did in San Bruno, California, and more recently in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Although the final causal report for the San Bruno pipeline incident will be months in coming, there is speculation that substandard construction could have played a role in the disaster. Other factors, including over pressurization of the 30-inch diameter transmission line, could have also played a role.

Although rare, damage to pipelines can and does occur. Statistics from the American Gas Association indicate the leading cause of pipeline damage is the result of excavation, along with corrosion, material defects, worker error and acts of nature.

Data collected by the Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration show that the frequency of leaks from all causes **are decreasing** as people become more knowledgeable about pipeline safety.

While it may not be possible to insulate pipelines from an act of nature, damage from construction and improper handling can be prevented by rigorously following established safety protocols.

As a whole, the natural gas industry invests close to \$7 billion each year in safety measures. At New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG), more than \$106 million will be spent over two years to enhance and expand our distribution system to ensure the safe and reliable delivery of natural gas to our customers.

The design, construction, operation, inspection and maintenance of ALL operating pipelines are subject to strict state and federal regulations requiring the operators to follow guidelines and standards developed by various industry organizations such as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Petroleum Institute, the American Society of Testing and Materials and more. At NJNG, we continually

improve our pipeline safety operations, including design and construction techniques, inspection programs and workforce training and qualifications

But infrastructure upgrades are only a part of the picture. Natural gas safety needs to be an essential part of all of our daily routines – and partnership is the key to safety. Industry, regulators, contractors and excavators, state and local agencies, community leaders and the public must all work together to ensure natural gas and all forms of energy are handled safely.

NJNG has joined the natural gas industry in a comprehensive public awareness campaign to help make pipeline safety information more accessible, easier to understand and consistent throughout our industry.

We conduct extensive training and periodic drills with emergency responders and state and local agencies testing procedures, logistics and communications to ensure that emergency plans are in place.

And, as an active member of New Jersey One Call, NJNG participates in widespread public education programs to promote safe digging practices, including, most importantly, the use of 811, an easy-to-remember, nationwide number for both professional excavators and do-it-yourself homeowners to call before doing excavation work of any kind.

We ask you to join us as our partners in safety and make sure you are aware of the proper way to handle natural gas.

At the end of the day, it's all about fulfilling our commitment to ensuring the safety of our customers and employees, and the integrity of the natural gas "lifelines" that provide essential service to all our communities.

Here are some specific NJNG safety controls and procedures:

NJNG runs internal line inspection tools called “Smart PIGs” (PIG is an acronym for pipeline integrity gauge) in its transmission lines to inspect for external or internal corrosion.

Remote control and automatic control valves are installed in the transmission system to assist in shutting down pipelines in the event of an emergency.

NJNG performs various leakage surveys on its distribution piping system to inspect for possible natural gas leaks, including special surveys to be performed on any cast iron distribution systems during a deep frost.

NJNG’s entire transmission system is **leak surveyed annually**, as well as **patrolled monthly**, for any indications of natural gas leakage or construction activity.

NJNG personnel are present during construction activity near its transmission pipelines in order to minimize the potential for third-party excavation damage.

NJNG installs above ground pipeline markers along its transmission pipeline route in an effort to reduce third-party excavation damage.

NJNG conducts periodic Public Awareness seminars for municipal officials and excavators.

NJNG participates in the state mandated Underground Damage Prevention program.