

## Public Awareness & Damage Prevention

### PARTNERS IN PIPELINE SAFETY

America's pipeline industry maintains an enviable record of safety and reliability. Pipelines are by far the safest means of transportation today. The purpose of our pipeline is to provide safe, dependable, natural gas to your gas burning appliances 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. However, despite strict federal oversight and the conscientious efforts of the NOPFA, hazards do exist and emergencies, though infrequent, can occur. Statistics show that the majority of pipeline damage is caused by third parties (construction contractors, property owners, excavators, etc.) digging near buried pipelines. Damage to a pipeline, such as scratches, gouges, creases, dents, and the cutting of tracer wire or tracer tape installed along with polyethylene plastic should be reported to the NOPFA. Third-party damage can be prevented by using a local excavation notification system known as OKIE One-Call and it's **FREE!**

In Oklahoma, the law requires anyone planning to dig or excavate near an underground pipeline to notify OKIE One-Call Center two working days (48 hours) prior to beginning excavation activities. Notice shall be given no less than forty-eight (48) hours, excluding the date of notification, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, prior to the commencement of the excavation or demolition. The OKIE One-Call center will notify member utilities that operate buried facilities in the area. A utility representative will determine if the project is near underground facilities and dispatch someone to the work

#### Information for Emergency Officials

1. **Secure the area around the leak.**
2. **Take steps to prevent ignition of a suspected leak.**
3. **Contact: Adair County:**  
**918-696-4177**  
**Or Cherokee/Muskogee Counties:**  
**918-456-5621**  
**After hours & weekends: 918-456-5621**

## NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY

For information regarding pipeline safety:

Call us @

**Adair County: 918-696-4177**

**Cherokee & Muskogee Counties: 918-456-5621**

Or write to us @

**601 Doyle Avenue, Stilwell, OK 74960**

**Or 1996 Airport Parkway, Tahlequah, OK 74464**



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.



### PIPELINE MARKERS

For public-safety reasons, most pipelines are buried several feet underground. To make pipelines easier to locate and identify, NOPFA installs markers near roads and highways, at railroad and river crossings, above ground piping and at other locations along our rights of way. These markers show a pipeline's **approximate** location and provide emergency-contact telephone numbers and product transported. Not all buried lines have markers. Therefore, prior to performing excavating activities as simple as planting a tree, installation of landscaping, building a fence, installing a swimming pool or installation of a mailbox, contact OKIE One-Call at 811 or 1-800-522-6543.

## Public Awareness & Damage Prevention

Fortunately, pipeline accidents are extremely rare, but they can occur. Natural Gas is flammable and potentially hazardous and explosive under certain circumstances. NOPFA undertakes many prevention and safety measures to insure the integrity of its pipeline system. Some preventive measures include gas leakage surveys, corrosion control, and continuing surveillance. For additional information regarding pipeline safety or questions call: Adair County: 918-696-4177 or Cherokee & Muskogee Counties: 918-456-5621.

PHMSA guidelines requires NOPFA to make you aware of certain recommendations regarding your underground natural gas piping. NOPFA does not maintain the gas piping past the customer's meter. Piping beyond the meter is the responsibility of the consumer. Buried customer piping may be subject to corrosion and/or leakage. Your buried piping should be checked periodically to ensure safe operation. You are advised to contact a licensed plumber or contractor to assist you in locating and inspecting your buried gas piping. Should an unsafe condition occur, repairs should be made



### PIPELINE SAFETY IS BUILT IN

PHMSA(Pipeline & Hazardous Material Safety Administration) imposes rigorous standards for pipeline design, construction, maintenance, testing and operation. NOPFA's policies and procedures are designed to meet and, in most cases, exceed these standards. Our commitment to safety begins before a pipeline is built or expanded. We build safety into our system by:

- carefully researching and planning the safe construction of each project;
- using pipe that is inspected and tested at the factory to comply with both federal and industry standards;
- providing steel pipe with a coating and other measures that protect it from external corrosion, the use corrosive resistant polyethylene plastic
- inspecting the integrity of the pipe during construction;
- testing the finished pipeline at pressures higher than normal operating pressure before it's placed into service.

### SAFETY IS MAINTAINED DURING OPERATION

Once a pipeline is built, tested and placed in service, NOPFA controls and monitors the safety of its system in several ways, including: routinely patrolling our pipeline route on the ground to inspect for leakage and identify potential problems and assist in preventing third-party excavation damage. Other maintenance of facilities including:

- over-pressure protection devices inspections
- cathodic protection inspection (a means of adding negative DC current to steel pipelines to slow corrosion)
- advising periodically, state and local emergency officials to review accident-prevention and emergency-response procedures
- posting markers with emergency telephone numbers along our rights of way, at highway, railroad crossings to inform the public of a buried pipeline in the area or an above ground piping

For additional information about other pipelines in your area you may contact NPMS at [www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov)

For other helpful resources contact: [www.ops.dot.gov](http://www.ops.dot.gov)--PHMSA

[www.commongroundalliance.org](http://www.commongroundalliance.org)  
Common Ground Alliance

[www.occeweb.com](http://www.occeweb.com) –Oklahoma  
Corporation Commission

### NATURAL GAS LEAKS: RECOGNITION AND RESPONSE

Natural gas pipeline leaks or failures are rare, but an informed public can help prevent emergencies and minimize potential damage or injury in the unlikely event of an accident by knowing how to recognize and report pipeline problems.

### HOW TO IDENTIFY A LEAK

The following signs may indicate a natural gas pipeline leak or failure:

**SIGHT—A dense fog, mist, or white cloud. Bubbling in water and creeks or blowing dust and discolored or dying vegetation.**

**SMELL—Natural Gas is naturally odorless, so a rotten egg odor is added to aid in leak detection.**

**SOUND—Whistling, hissing, or roaring noise.**

### What NOT to do...

Do NOT touch, breathe, or make contact with the leak.

DO NOT light a match, turn on or off light switches, use a home phone or cell phone or do anything that may create a spark.

DO NOT attempt to extinguish any natural gas fire.

DO NOT attempt to operate any valves.

### What to DO...

DO leave the home, building or area of any suspected leak.

DO call NOPFA or 911 once safely out of the area.

DO Warn others to stay out of the area

