

# LOCAL LEADERS AND PUBLIC WORKERS, PERMITTING, AND PLANNING OFFICIALS



Natural gas safety information.

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

Black Hills Energy  
**888-890-5554**

Si necesita esta información en español, por favor comuníquese con nuestro centro de llamadas al:  
**888-890-5554**





# EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME.

## DAMAGE PREVENTION

You serve an important role in helping to prevent pipeline emergencies. Pipeline damage most often occurs during excavation. Everyone — even you — are responsible for keeping the natural gas system safe. A big part of that responsibility is to consider where utility lines are buried before you dig. Whether you're a homeowner using a shovel to plant a tree or set a fencepost, or a major contractor using a backhoe to open a trench or excavate to make room for a basement. Click or call **811** at least two days before you dig. It's free, it's safe and it's the law.

Neighbors like you can help us maintain a safe, secure and reliable pipeline system. If you observe any unusual or suspicious activity near our pipeline facilities, please call us immediately at **888-890-5554**.

## ONE-CALL REQUIREMENTS

### Call before you dig

Avoid a costly repair bill and, more importantly, keep yourself and others safe.

- 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**, or submit your request online at [call811.com](http://call811.com).
- 2. Please review your state's One-Call laws for specific call, locate and dig requirements.**
  - Arkansas: [arkonecall.com](http://arkonecall.com)
  - Colorado: [colorado811.org](http://colorado811.org)
  - Iowa: [iowaonecall.com](http://iowaonecall.com)
  - Kansas: [kansas811.com](http://kansas811.com)
  - Montana: [montana811.org](http://montana811.org)
  - Nebraska: [ne1call.com](http://ne1call.com)
  - South Dakota: [sdonecall.com](http://sdonecall.com)
  - Wyoming: [onecallofwyoming.com](http://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. Don't forget, you need to call at least two full business days before work does begin.

# HAS YOUR CITY OR COUNTY CREW DAMAGED A PIPELINE?

Pipeline damage most often occurs during excavation. Everyone, including you, is responsible for keeping the natural gas system safe. If our pipeline has been hit, dented, or scraped, or someone suspects a leak, call **911** and Black Hills Energy at **888-890-5554**.

A quick call to this free service is an absolute must. Safeguard property to avoid a costly repair bill and, most importantly, protect lives.

## 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.

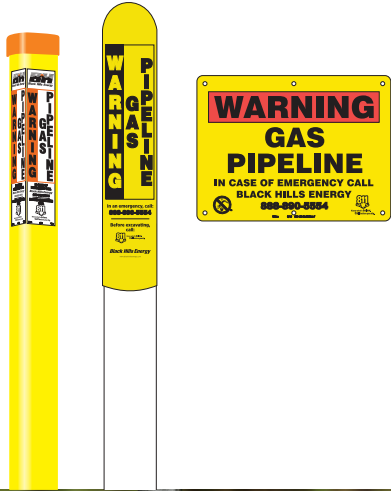
If you disturb, nick, chip, scratch or dent a pipeline or coating, immediately leave the area and warn others to stay away. From a safe location, call **911** and report it immediately to **888-890-5554**. In Arkansas, Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming you must also call **811**.

## PIPELINE LOCATION INFORMATION

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

Pipeline signs, as shown, 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 call us at **888-890-5554**.

## YOUR ROLE AS AN EMERGENCY RESPONDER

### Integrity management and high-consequence areas (HCAs) and moderate consequence areas (MCAs)

Our integrity management plan focuses on areas our industry defines as high-consequence areas (HCAs) and moderate consequence areas (MCAs). 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 more information on integrity management, please go to the this link **[blackhillsenergy.com/pipeline-integrity](https://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% gas in air, and the upper explosive limit is 15% gas in air. Outside of that range, gas is either too rich or too lean to burn.

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 us at **888-890-5554** or visit **[blackhillenergy.com/safety](http://blackhillenergy.com/safety)**.

PRODUCT	LEAK TYPE	VAPORS	HEALTH HAZARDS	FIRE HAZARDS
Natural Gas	Gas	Lighter than air	Extremely high concentrations may cause irritation or asphyxiation	Extremely flammable and easily ignited by heat, sparks or flames; explosive in enclosed areas

# 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 deliver the many benefits of natural gas energy to millions of consumers.

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.



# PIPELINE PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAMS

We conduct programs in partnership with these companies and towns:

- Absolute Energy, LLC – Iowa
- Ag Processing, Inc. – Algona, Iowa
- Ag Processing, Inc. – Mason City, Iowa
- APC, LLC – Kansas
- Arkalon Ethanol, LLC – Kansas
- Argonia Municipal Gas System - Kansas
- Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) - Iowa
- City of Abbyville, Kansas
- City of Burrton - Kansas
- City of Little River - Kansas
- City of Ponca, Nebraska
- Corn LP – Iowa
- Danisco Cultor - Kansas
- Elite Octane, LLC – Iowa
- Finney County Feeders, LLC – Kansas
- Gardner Energy - Kansas
- Haven Steel – Kansas
- Little Sioux Corn Processors – Iowa
- Lebo Municipal Gas System - Kansas
- McLouth Municipal System - Kansas
- Mid-Kansas Electric Co – Kansas
- Monolith Nebraska LLC – Nebraska
- POET Biorefining - Arthur, Iowa
- POET Biorefining - Jewell, Iowa
- Renewable Power Producers (RPP) – Kansas
- Sioux City Brick & Tile – Iowa
- Southwestern Iowa Renewable Energy (SIRE) - Iowa
- Sunflower Electric Power Co – Kansas
- Town of Aguilar – Colorado
- Valero Renewable Fuels – Iowa

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- For a list of natural gas service providers and pipeline operators in your area, visit [npms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://npms.phmsa.dot.gov).
- For a land-use checklist developed by the Pipeline and Informed Planning Alliance, visit [primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/pipa/pipa\\_resources.htm](http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/pipa/pipa_resources.htm).
- 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 [commongroundalliance.com](http://commongroundalliance.com).
- For emergency responder training for natural gas emergencies, visit [bhe.rtueonline.com](http://bhe.rtueonline.com).
- Visit our website at [blackhillsenergy.com](http://blackhillsenergy.com) or scan the QR code below.





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Wichita, KS 67201-3151

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## **Important contact information**

Universal emergency number: **911**

City of Abbyville, Kansas customer service: **620-286-5643**

National call-before-you-dig number: **811**

Black Hills Energy emergency number:

**888-890-5554**

24BYPO





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## **Important contact information**

Universal emergency number: **911**

Haven Steel emergency number: **316-577-0557**

Haven Steel customer service: **620-465-2573**

National call-before-you-dig number: **811**

Black Hills Energy emergency number:

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## **Important contact information**

Universal emergency number: **911**

City of Argonia, Kansas customer service: **620-435-6417**

National call-before-you-dig number: **811**

Black Hills Energy emergency number:

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## **Important contact information**

Universal emergency number: **911**

City of McLouth, Kansas customer service: **913-796-6411**

National call-before-you-dig number: **811**

Black Hills Energy emergency number:

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## **Important contact information**

Universal emergency number: **911**

City of Lebo, Kansas customer service: **620-256-6622**

National call-before-you-dig number: **811**

Black Hills Energy emergency number:

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## Important contact information

Universal emergency number: **911**

Monolith customer service: **402-413-5763**

National call-before-you-dig number: **811**

Black Hills Energy emergency number:

**888-890-5554**

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