Natural gas pipeline safety

You are an important partner in preventing natural gas emergencies. Please read this brochure to understand the preventive and protective steps taken to ensure your safety and the safety of those living and working near natural gas facilities.

Energy you can depend on

Clean, efficient and ***safe natural gas***

Natural gas is a clean-burning, low-cost source of energy used to heat homes, generate electricity and power industries. The underground pipes that distribute natural gas and the pipes that connect homes and businesses to the natural gas distribution system have outstanding safety records. In fact, nearly 63 million homes in America rely on clean, efficient and safe natural gas.

Keeping our system safe

Safety is our No. 1 priority. We construct, operate, maintain and inspect our natural gas system in accordance with state and federal pipeline safety regulations.

To protect our natural gas pipeline system integrity, we:

- Design pipelines to ensure the safe delivery of natural gas.
- Maintain pipeline integrity management programs.
- Regularly inspect our natural gas system including patrols, leak surveys and corrosion inspection.
- Keep our workforce properly trained and qualified.
- Mark and map pipeline facilities.
- Provide training and educational materials to contractors and related businesses on safe digging practices.
- Work with local emergency responders to help prevent and prepare for emergencies.
- Educate the public on how to prevent, recognize and respond to natural gas leaks.

If a potential problem is discovered, crews respond and resolve the problem, following current industry standards and best practices.

High-consequence areas

Pipeline operators must identify, prioritize, evaluate and validate the integrity of gas transmission pipelines that could, in the event of a leak or failure, affect high-consequence areas (HCAs). HCAs include certain populated and occupied areas near transmission pipelines. Some examples of HCAs include, but are not limited to, stadiums, recreational areas, religious facilities, office buildings, community centers, stores, hospitals, schools and daycare facilities.

Pipeline locations and markers

Because natural gas pipelines are buried underground, we install above-ground markers, such as the one shown here, to identify their location.

Transmission pipelines normally are located in cross-country corridors or right of ways. Transmission pipeline markers can be found at road right of ways, railway and stream crossings, or fence lines along cross-country pipeline routes.

Distribution pipelines are normally located along streets and town or country roads, and directly serve customers along the route. Distribution pipeline markers are normally located in rural areas outside of incorporated cities and villages.

Although the markers indicate the presence of natural gas pipelines, they do not show the exact location or depth. They only indicate that a pipeline is present, the type of product inside the pipeline, the pipeline owner and an

emergency contact number. Report any unusual or suspicious activity near these markers to We Energies and your local police immediately.

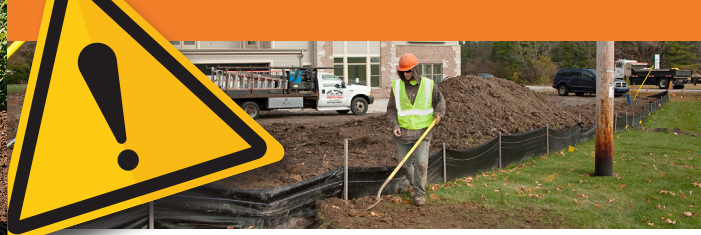
We may not be the only pipeline operator in your area. To find out which pipeline operators have transmission facilities in your community, visit the National Pipeline Mapping System website at **https://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov**.

To perform mandated pipeline safety inspections, we must have clear access to the pipeline right of way. The areas on either side of the pipeline must be kept clear of debris, trees, sheds and other structures.

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

The leading cause of damage to our pipeline delivery system is third-party hits to our natural gas lines. Serious injury or death, property damage and service outages can occur if gas pipelines are struck.

To prevent a hazardous situation while digging, planting or landscaping on your property, you must call 811 or contact your local one-call system at least three business days before you plan to dig. Representatives will mark utility-owned underground facilities on your property for free. So, don't forget to call – it's the law.



Recognizing a *natural gas leak*

Leaks from a natural gas pipeline are rare, but you should know the warning signs. Use your eyes, ears and nose, and call us if you:

- **Smell an odor similar to rotten eggs.**
- **Hear an unusual hissing, whistling or roaring sound.**
- **See dirt or debris blowing into the air.**
- **See unexplained dead or dying grass or other vegetation near a pipeline.**
- **See water bubbling in a puddle, river, pond or creek.**

Natural gas is colorless, odorless and tasteless. It will not burn by itself, but if mixed with the right amount of air, natural gas can ignite. Natural gas in an enclosed area may displace oxygen in the air, which can lead to suffocation. Larger transmission pipelines, that operate at a higher pressure than the lines that distribute natural gas to homes, carry un-odorized natural gas. When natural gas passes through our gate stations, we add mercaptan, a rotten-egg-like odorant, to help detect leaks. It's important to look for and report any of the warning signs listed above.

If you smell natural gas or have a natural gas emergency, leave immediately and call us at 800-261-5325 from a safe location. In the event of a natural gas leak, any electric spark could ignite an explosion. Avoid using electronic appliances, such as garage door openers or telephones of any type, and don't turn electrical switches on or off.

We have highly trained employees on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to respond to natural gas emergencies. Our on-call availability, training programs, and longstanding relationships with local emergency officials and emergency responders help keep our communities safe.

For more information

Keep these numbers handy for emergencies, digging or safety information.

We Energies

Customer Service:
800-242-9137
we-energies.com

Digging

Wisconsin Diggers Hotline:
811 or 800-242-8511
diggershotline.com

National Pipeline Mapping System:
https://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov

American Gas Association:
www.aga.org

Common Ground Alliance:
commongroundalliance.com

If you smell natural gas or have a natural gas emergency, leave immediately and call us from a safe location.

24-hour natural gas emergency hotline: 800-261-5325

Este documento contiene información importante sobre seguridad de gas natural. Si necesita traducción llame al **800-242-9137** o visite **www.we-energies.com/partners/espanol**. Si sospecha una fuga de gas natural o tiene una emergencia de gas natural, llámenos inmediatamente desde un lugar seguro.

230037

WE-230037-03-LD-GH-900M