

# Pipeline Safety

For Your School

A Federal and State Regulated Pipeline Safety Message



This brochure has been sent your school has been identified as being in an area where Clarke-Mobile Counties Gas District pipelines exist.

To report a natural gas emergency, call 911 and immediately notify Clarke-Mobile Counties Gas District at 800-449-3338.

## Pipeline Safety Information Just for Schools

Clarke-Mobile Counties Gas District (CMC Gas) owns and operates 150 miles of natural gas transmission pipelines as well as 452 miles of natural gas distribution pipelines supplying service to approximately 6,500 residential, commercial, and industrial customers. CMC Gas's system is supplied from six interstate/intrastate pipeline connections in seven southwest Alabama counties (Clarke, Mobile, Washington, Baldwin, Choctaw, Escambia, and Wilcox). Additional supply connections include American Midstream and Big Escambia Creek production plants as well as a connection to Bay Gas Storage.

Even though pipelines are one of the safest ways to transport natural gas, emergencies are possible. If such an emergency occurs it requires immediate and coordinated response efforts to protect students, staff, property, and the environment. Yet, quite often pipeline facilities are overlooked when assessing risks.

Clarke-Mobile Counties Gas District wants to help schools like yours improve safety planning and readiness. The first step is to review and share the enclosed brochure. It contains important information everyone should know as well as our emergency phone numbers.





## Emergency Preparedness

The following recommendations can help assure your school is prepared for an appropriate response:

- Familiarize staff and students with the location of nearby pipelines.
- Know how to recognize the signs of a potential pipeline problem and how to respond.
- Incorporate procedures for appropriately responding to a pipeline emergency in your school's safety and evacuation plans.
- Talk with your district transportation director to ensure your school's drivers have appropriate training.
- Maintain a heightened sense of vigilance in identifying risks to nearby pipelines. To prevent an emergency, report unmarked digging activity or environmental changes to Clarke-Mobile Counties Gas District or law enforcement.



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



# Hazard Awareness and Prevention Measures

The information here addresses hazards, consequences, and preventative measures in general. More specific information can be obtained by visiting [www.cmcgas.com](http://www.cmcgas.com) or by calling **251-246-2428**.

Clarke-Mobile Counties Gas District pipelines transport natural gas. Natural gas is a clean-burning, efficient fuel. 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 has a high ignition temperature and a narrow range of flammability. That said, even the smallest of sparks can cause a fire or explosion.

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 information on our Integrity Management Plan, please call us at **251-246-2428**.

| LEAK TYPE | VAPORS           | HEALTH HAZARDS  | FIRE HAZARDS   |
|-----------|------------------|---|--|
| Gas       | Lighter than air | Extremely high concentrations may cause irritation or asphyxiation when displacement of oxygen occurs in enclosed spaces. | Extremely flammable and easily ignited by heat, sparks, or flames. |



## How to Recognize a Leak

Pipeline emergencies include damaged pipelines, fire, an explosion near or directly involving a pipeline, a natural disaster affecting the pipeline, or a leaking pipeline.

### Tips to help you recognize a gas leak



**Look:** Persistent bubbling in standing water, blowing dirt, or discolored vegetation are signs of a possible leak around the pipeline.



**Listen:** Note any unusual noise like a hissing or roaring sound.



**Smell:** Odor is an easy way to identify the release of natural gas. Natural gas in its original state is odorless. An additive is injected into the gas supply to help our customers smell and identify the release of natural gas. That additive smells like rotten eggs.

### What to do if you suspect a leak

- Immediately evacuate everyone from the area, moving upwind of the product release. Warn others to stay away.
- After everyone is safely away, from a safe location **call 911** and immediately notify Clarke-Mobile Counties Gas District at **800-449-3338**.
- Emergency personnel will let you know when it's safe to return.

### What NOT to do when a leak occurs

- **DO NOT** touch, breathe, or make contact with the leaking product.
- **DO NOT** light a match, start an engine, use a telephone, operate light switches, or do anything that may create a spark.
- **DO NOT** drive a vehicle near the area of the release.
- **DO NOT** attempt to extinguish any pipeline fire.
- **DO NOT** operate any pipeline valves. Leave all valve operations to pipeline company personnel.

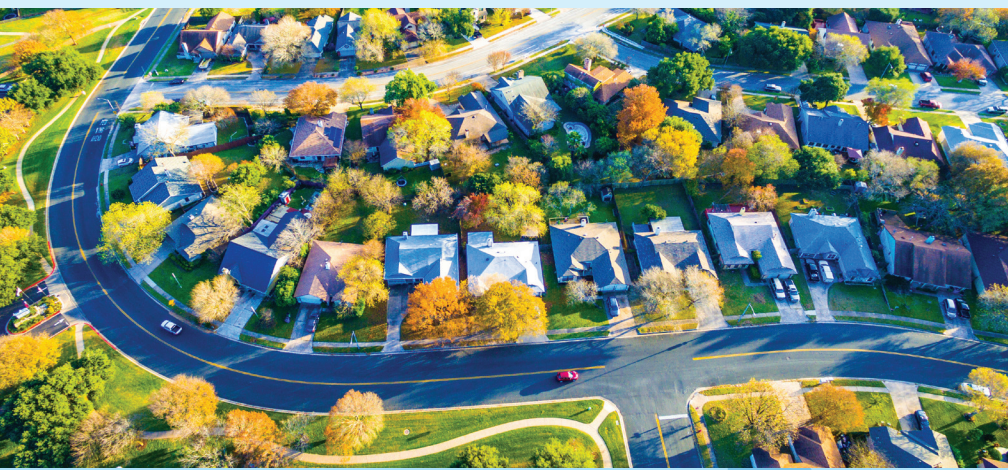
### What Clarke-Mobile Counties Gas District Will Do During an Emergency

We maintain close relationships with local emergency response officials. In the unlikely event of an emergency, these partnerships help prevent incidents, and keep us constantly prepared to respond immediately and effectively. Clarke-Mobile Counties Gas District will immediately dispatch trained personnel upon notification of an emergency. We will provide information to public safety officials to aid in their response. We will take operational steps to minimize the impact of the emergency.



## Pipeline Purpose and Reliability

The United States has the largest pipeline network in the world. Pipelines deliver the raw materials processed into the fuel that powers our lives. Gathering lines transport products from the production site to processing facilities and then connect to transmission lines carrying the products from one part of the state to another. Distribution lines run throughout neighborhoods and connect to homes and businesses.



According to pipeline data related to personal injuries, data collected by the U.S. Department of Transportation, pipelines are the safest and most cost-effective means of transporting these products. We are committed to safe and reliable operation of our pipelines in your community. Once designed, tested, and installed, pipelines are operated and maintained according to all federal and state requirements. We conduct regular patrols over our pipelines. We also follow a carefully planned maintenance and inspection schedule.



# You Play an Important Role in Damage Prevention

Digging-related damage is one of the leading causes of pipeline incidents. You must report any suspected signs of damage, because even relatively minor excavation activities (for example: installing mail boxes, fences, flag poles, landscaping, storage buildings, etc.) can cause damage to a pipeline or its protective coating.

## Call 811 Before You Dig! It's SAFE. It's FREE. It's the LAW!

State law requires you to notify **811 BEFORE YOU DIG**. This is a **FREE** service.  
For general 811 information, visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com).

For Alabama specific One-Call rules visit [www.al811.com](http://www.al811.com).



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

### Follow these five steps to stay safe:

1. **“Call 811 Before You Dig.”**





Call 811. Lines are open 24/7. The operator will ask you about the length of time required for your digging, as well as about its intended depth. The operator will contact your utilities, who will then mark their lines for you.

2. **Wait at least two business days (excluding holidays).**





If, for example, if you plan to dig on Saturday, call by Wednesday. State law requires this notice to allow utilities and operators enough time to flag their underground lines.

3. **Watch for the marks.**

Utilities and operators will point out the approximate location of buried facilities using paint, flags, stakes, or a combination thereof. If you outline the excavation area in white paint beforehand, these operators and utilities will better understand where you plan to dig. They observe a recognized code for marking underground lines.

-  Proposed Excavation
-  Temporary Survey
-  Electric
-  Gas, Oil, Steam & Petroleum



-  Communication
-  Potable Water
-  Reclaimed Water & Irrigation
-  Sewer & Drain Lines

4. **Dig with care!**

Once the work begins, it's up to you to use safe, accepted digging practices. For instance, always hand-dig when you're within two feet of any marked lines. Make sure the marks remain visible during the project. If they're damaged or destroyed, you must call 811 for a re-mark.

5. **Report damage immediately.**

If you hit, nick, scratch, or dent our pipeline line, **call 911** and  
Clarke-Mobile Counties Gas District at **800-449-3338**.  
We answer emergency calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week.





## Where are the Pipelines

Since pipelines are located underground, Clarke-Mobile Counties Gas District uses line markers to identify the proximity of the pipeline. Pipeline markers are placed above ground along the pipeline right-of-way and at above-ground pipeline facilities, at street crossings, and at railroad crossings to indicate the approximate location of the pipeline. The marker will typically provide the pipeline operator's name, the contents of the pipeline, and an emergency phone number. If an emergency is suspected or discovered call the number on the pipeline marker. While markers play an important role in identifying pipelines, they are not used to give depth or exact locations. The location of transmission pipelines can be found at the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) website: [www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov).

## Look for a Pipeline Right-of-Way (ROW)

ROWs are clear of any structures and trees. They allow access to pipeline operators for maintenance, for ground and aerial inspections, and for testing.

## Right-of-Way Encroachment Prevention

Encroachment upon pipeline right-of-ways inhibits our ability to reduce third-party damage, to provide right-of-way surveillance, to perform routine maintenance and required federal/state inspections. Such encroachment may also reduce access to the area in the event of an emergency. Do not plant trees or high shrubs on the right-of-way. Please help us prevent digging, building, storing, or placing anything on or near the right-of-ways without first having the pipeline marked and the right-of-ways staked.

If there are questions concerning the pipeline or the right-of-way, especially if property improvements or excavations are planned that might impact the right-of-way, please contact us at **251-246-2428**.



## Additional Information

For Alabama One-Call rules: [www.al811.com](http://www.al811.com)

For a list of transmission pipeline operators in your area, visit [www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov).

For excavation practices near underground facilities, visit [www.commongroundalliance.com](http://www.commongroundalliance.com).

For more information about pipeline assets in your community, contact us at **251-246-2428**.