

Pipeline Safety

For Community Planning

A Federal and State Regulated Pipeline Safety Message

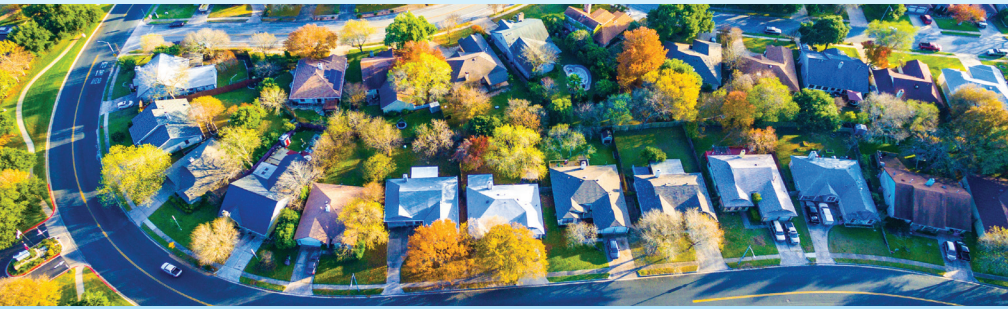


You received this material because Clarke-Mobile Counties Gas District operates a pipeline in your jurisdiction.

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

For more information on our Emergency Response Plan,
call **251-246-2428**.

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.



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.



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 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.

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.



Important Pipeline Information for Public Officials

Community Planning Tools

There are many tools available for Public Officials and their communities to help mitigate and understand pipeline utility incident risks. Please contact Clarke-Mobile Counties Gas District for more information.

Pipelines and Information Planning Alliance

The Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA) is a department of PHMSA and has the goal of reducing risks and improving the safety of affected communities and pipeline operation through a set of recommended practices related to land use.

These recommended practices can be accessed at:

<http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/pipa/LandUsePlanning.htm>.

Developing or Building Near a Transmission Pipeline

Our first priority is to protect life. The decisions you make can impact the safety of the community surrounding the pipeline.

- Have you consulted with the pipeline operator?
- Have you considered access for pipeline maintenance and emergency response?
- Is enhanced fire protection needed?
- How will excavation damage to the pipeline be prevented?

PIPA has developed recommended practices to help in making decisions about what, where, and how to build safely near transmission pipelines. Information is readily available for the following stakeholder groups: government officials, property owners/developers, pipeline operators, and real estate commissions. PIPA's informational sections include:

- Land Use Planning
- Consultation Zone and Planning Area
- Hazard Mitigation Planning for Pipelines
- Examples of Good and Poor Practices
- Table of Recommended Practices
- PIPA FAQs
- Links and Resources

Call 811 Before You Dig!

It's SAFE. It's FREE. It's the LAW!

You serve a critical role in helping to prevent pipeline incidents. The leading cause of damage to buried pipelines is the failure to call and obtain the exact location of buried lines. Damage to pipelines, such as scratches, gouges, creases, or dents may cause a leak.

State law requires you to notify **811 BEFORE YOU DIG**. This is a **FREE** service. Pipeline operators will mark the location of their lines. Excavation activities as simple as the planting of a tree, landscaping, building a fence, installing a swimming pool, or replacing a mailbox, require a call to 811. For general 811 information, visit www.call811.com. For Alabama specific One-Call rules visit www.al811.com.

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.



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.



Encroachment Prevention

A pipeline right-of-way is a strip of land over and around pipelines where some of the property owner's legal rights have been granted to a pipeline company. This may also be referred to as an easement.

An encroachment is an infringement of another's rights or intrusion on another's property. Pipeline rights-of-ways must be kept free from structures and other obstructions, such as trees or shrubs, to provide access to the pipeline for maintenance, ground and aerial inspections, and in the event of an emergency. If an easement is encroached upon, the encroachment may be removed without compensation or replacement. Please help us to prevent encroachment or pipeline damage by calling 811 to have pipelines marked and right-of-ways staked prior to digging, building, storing, or placing anything on or near the right-of-ways.



Security

You are our first line of defense against unauthorized excavation and other such activity in the right-of-way. You can help by contacting us of suspicious activities.

Please help us by following the suggestions below.

- Become familiar with the pipelines in your area (look for pipeline markers).
- Become familiar with pipeline facilities in your area (look for fence signs at gate entrances).
- Record the operator name, contact information, and any pipeline information from nearby pipeline marker signs or facility signs. Keep this information in a permanent location near a telephone.
- Be observant for any unusual or suspicious activities, any unauthorized excavations taking place within or near the pipeline right-of-way or pipeline facility.
- Report such activities to the pipeline operator.

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Additional Information

- For Alabama One-Call rules: www.al811.com.
- For a list of transmission pipeline operators in your area, visit: www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov.
- For a land-use checklist developed by the Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance, visit: https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/pipa/pipa_audience_local_government.htm.
- For a summary of initiatives that encourage communication between pipeline operators, contractors and land developers, visit: https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/pipa/pipa_consultation_planning.htm.
- For excavation practices near underground facilities, visit: www.commongroundalliance.com.
- For information about pipeline assets in your community or our emergency preparedness drills and exercises, please contact us at **251-246-2428**.



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