

Responding to Pipeline Emergencies



Williams emergency numbers:

800-635-7400

800-688-6321 (Pennsylvania)





Partnership for safety

As partners in safety, we value your unique skills and expertise. Working together, the natural gas industry and your emergency response agency can build a positive relationship – the kind of partnership needed to continue to maintain the safety of the most efficient transportation system in the United States.

Safe operations

Pipeline companies are responsible for the safety of their operations. Besides federal and state safety and environmental standards, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration oversees and regulates pipeline system operations from the design stage of a project to construction, maintenance and operations.

To ensure public safety, pipeline operators continuously monitor their systems through a combination of safety programs:

- Low-flying aircraft regularly patrol pipeline routes
- Visual ground inspections
- Computerized systems report and record line pressure 24 hours a day at staffed control centers



For more information about Williams' emergency drills, training, or pipeline location information in your area, please contact your Williams representative.



Key elements of emergency response plans

Notification

Notify the pipeline company immediately in the event of an incident. The phone number on the pipeline marker will connect you with the company's 24-hour emergency gas control center.

Safe response

Locate upwind, uphill and upgrade of the incident. Keep yourself and others out of harm's way.

Isolation and denial of access/entry

Do not allow anyone to enter the hazard area. Use banner tape, vehicles or emergency response agencies as necessary.

Incident command system

The pipeline company will establish a command post as a central clearinghouse for all emergency information. You will receive further instruction from the pipeline's Incident Commander. Pipeline operators will take necessary operating actions – starting and stopping equipment, closing and opening valves, and other steps – to minimize the impact of the leak.

Emergency response plans

Emergency Response Plans have been developed by the pipeline company to work in conjunction with existing emergency plans developed by federal, state and local authorities. To further coordinate, these plans are presented to the local emergency planning committee or other local emergency agencies annually.



Know the color codes

Below is the American Public Works Association Utility Location & Coordination Council Uniform Color Codes for marking underground utility lines.



- White:** Proposed excavation
- Pink:** Temporary survey markings
- Red:** Electric power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables
- Yellow:** Gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials
- Orange:** Communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit
- Blue:** Potable water
- Purple:** Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines
- Green:** Sewers and drain lines

Dial 811

811 is a national call-before-you-dig number and will connect anyone intending to dig with their One Call center.



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

One Call information

- A free service
- Anyone planning excavation, construction or blasting activities should notify One Call before beginning work.
- Representatives from each company with underground pipelines or utilities will visit the proposed work site and mark the location of their facilities to reduce the risk of damage.



Need information about other pipelines in your area? Visit the National Pipeline Mapping System at www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov.

Potential hazardous conditions

Encroachment. If you notice excavation near a pipeline right of way, check to see if the contractors have notified the company or One Call about their work.

Leaks. Leaks from pipelines are unusual, but we want you to know what to do in the unlikely event one occurs. Your senses of sight, hearing and smell are the best way to recognize a pipeline leak.

Rupture. You will hear a loud roaring sound of escaping gas. A rupture does not always lead to a fire, but if it does ignite, it can result in a large flame burning at high temperatures. Be aware of the potential for secondary fires and disturbed earth in the vicinity of a rupture.

Did you know? Nearly two-thirds of fatalities involving pipelines are due to damage from outside forces.

Recognizing a leak

Look

- For a dense white cloud or fog
- Discolored or dead vegetation
- A pool of liquid on the ground
- Flames coming from the ground or an exposed pipeline valve
- A slight mist of ice or frozen area on the pipeline
- Continuous bubbling in wet, flooded area
- A rainbow or a sheen on water



Smell

- An unusual odor or scent of gas or petroleum

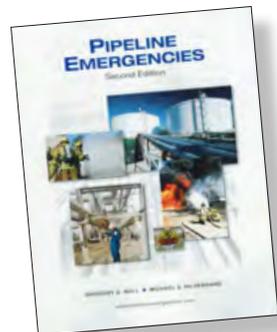
Listen

- An unusual hissing or roaring noise coming from a pipeline

Note: All of these signs may not occur at the same time.

Training materials available

The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM), with funding from PHMSA, recently published the second edition of Pipeline Emergencies. This publication offers a comprehensive emergency response training program designed to teach emergency responders and pipeline industry personnel to safely respond to pipeline incidents. The electronic edition of Pipeline Emergencies is available free of charge on the internet at www.pipelineemergencies.com. NASFM also has developed an iPhone app entitled Pipeline Emergencies, which is available free of charge through the Apple Store.



Potential hazards: Gases - flammable* (including refrigerated liquids)

Ref: Section 115 of your Emergency Response Guidebook

- Extremely flammable and easily ignited by heat, sparks or flames
- Will form explosive mixtures with air
- Methane is lighter than air and will rise while vapors from liquefied gas are initially heavier than air and spread along the ground
- Vapors may travel to source of ignition and flash back
- Cylinders exposed to fire may vent and release flammable gas through pressure relief devices
- Containers may explode when heated and ruptured cylinders may rocket

Potential hazards: Flammable liquids**

Ref: Section 128 of your Emergency Response Guidebook

- Highly flammable and easily ignited by heat, sparks or flames
- Vapors may form explosive mixtures with air
- Vapors may travel to source of ignition and flash back
- Most vapors are heavier than air. They will spread along ground and collect in low or confined areas (sewers, basements, tanks).
- Vapor explosion hazard indoors, outdoors or in sewers
- Those substances designated with a "P" may polymerize explosively when heated or involved in fire
- Runoff to sewer may create a fire or explosion hazard
- Containers may explode when heated
- Many liquids are lighter than water

* Includes Methane, Ethane-Propane Mix, Propane and Butanes

** Includes Pentanes, Natural Gasoline Drip, Condensate, Petroleum Distillates and Crude Oil

Locating pipelines

- Pipelines are marked by above ground signs to indicate the general location, product type and the name and contact information of the company that operates the pipeline.
- Markers do not provide information on the depth or number of pipelines in the vicinity and do not indicate the exact position of the pipeline.
- Pipelines may not follow a straight path between markers.
- Pipeline markers are generally yellow, black and red in color.
- If a marker has been knocked down, please call us so we can replace it.

