



As a proud member of your community, Summit Natural Gas of Maine (SNGM) is dedicated to ensuring the safety of you and your family. As an individual who lives, works, or owns property in close proximity to a SNGM owned and operated natural gas pipeline here is some important information you need to be aware of.

## Natural Gas Is Safe

With 200,000 miles of natural gas pipelines nationwide, natural gas provides 24% of all energy needs in the United States. Natural gas pipelines are among the safest fuel transportation systems in the world. Made almost entirely of high-grade coated steel and high-density polyethylene, natural gas pipelines are tested, monitored, and maintained using the latest technology 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Many systems contain meters designed to detect changes in pressure. In addition, SNGM adds a harmless product called Mercaptan to our gas that smells like rotten eggs.

## Pipeline Markers

Pipeline markers are used to show the approximate location of natural gas pipelines running throughout a specific area. These above ground markers are only used to mark transmission-class pipelines and are useful to help locate pipelines. They also contain information such as the name of the operating company, contact information, and the type of material running through the pipeline. Pipeline markers play an important role in the safety of pipelines, any attempt to remove, tamper, hide, deface, or destroy a pipeline marker is a Federal crime.

## Prevention

Summit Natural Gas of Maine works with local police, fire, and emergency response teams to ensure the continued safety of your community. This includes, conducting training seminars, meeting with local officials, and reviewing emergency response plans.

## Recognizing a Leak

Although natural gas pipelines have an unparalleled safety record, occasionally leaks do occur. Here are some signs of a natural gas leak:

- An odor like rotten eggs
- Roaring sound like an engine
- White vapor that looks like smoke
- A hissing or whistling noise
- Fire coming out of a hole or on top of the ground
- Dirt blowing from a hole in the ground
- An area of frozen ground in the summer
- Patches of dead vegetation or grass

## Hazards of a Release

In the event of a natural gas leak, here are some hazards you need to be aware of:

- Gas leaks are highly flammable and easily ignitable
- Gas leaks displace oxygen and cause asphyxiation
- Natural gas fires may produce irritating and corrosive vapors
- Vapors may cause dizziness

## Avoid and Report!

In the event that a natural gas leak is suspected, leave the premises immediately and call **1-800-909-7642**. **NEVER do anything that might cause a spark.** This includes:

- Lighting a match
- Operating electrical switches
- Starting an engine
- Using a cell phone or other electronic device in close proximity to a suspected leak
- Extinguishing a fire or repairing a leak
- Drive anything into a vapor cloud as it might explode

**CALL  
BEFORE  
YOU DIG!**

A majority of gas pipeline leaks occur as a result of individuals digging on their own property. State law requires all excavators and private citizens to contact an 811 Center prior to any excavation activities. Once 811 is called, Summit Natural Gas will mark all gas pipelines free of charge. **Simply call 811 or 888-DIG-SAFE or 877-DIG-SAFE** to request pipelines on your property get marked. Stay safe, call today!

# What to do if you suspect a leak

In the event that you believe a leak or rupture has occurred, immediately:

- 1 **Leave the area** uphill or upwind of the suspected leak.
- 2 If possible, **turn off any equipment** that could cause a spark.
- 3 From a safe place, **call 911** or your local emergency responders and your local pipeline operator.
- 4 **Warn others** of a potential leak and stay there until emergency responders arrive.

**Under no circumstances should you ever attempt to repair, stop or fix a pipeline leak or rupture.** Trained pipeline technicians with specialized equipment and knowledge are the only individuals qualified to conduct repairs on natural gas pipelines.

## Pipeline Operators Actions During an Emergency

Pipeline accidents are rare, however if one does occur, pipeline operators have a number of procedures and rules in place to address the situation. Pipeline technicians will take actions such as closing and opening valves, shutting off gas service, and conduct emergency operations with the intent of mitigating the event. In addition, pipeline operators have specialized tools and knowledge that allow them to quickly and efficiently stop leaks and ruptures.

## High Consequence Areas

High Consequence Areas (HCA) are areas that serve as meeting or gathering places during either everyday life, or serve as gathering places during emergencies such as churches, schools or auditoriums. These locations have additional hazard assessments and have special prevention programs known as Integrity Management Plans. In order to establish if your community has an HCA, contact SNGM for further information.

## Building or Digging on a Right-of-Way

Pipeline right of ways must not have obstructions or any structures that prevent access to the pipeline for routine maintenance or for an emergency. In the event that a pipeline does cross your property, refrain from building, digging, or planting anything that can impair access to the pipeline.

## Doing Your Part

Natural gas pipelines are a part of the national infrastructure that impact millions of people every single day. As a matter of National Security, it is important that any suspicious activity involving pipelines is immediately reported to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

**Summit Natural gas of Maine...**  
*The smartest way to switch to natural gas.*

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## Emergency Contact Information

**To request a locate:**

811 or 888-DIG-SAFE or 877-DIG-SAFE

**To report an emergency:**

911 or 800-909-7642

## For More Information

***Summit Natural Gas of Maine needs your help in ensuring the continued safety of your neighbors, friends, and families.***

Please visit [www.summitnaturalgasmaine.com](http://www.summitnaturalgasmaine.com) to learn more about what Summit Natural Gas is doing to protect you and your family.



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