

THIS SCHOOL ROCKS

Lesson 6 Be Informed: Pipeline Safety

Getting natural gas from the ground to homes and businesses is a process that involves a lot of pipelines. Pipelines are a series of long pipes that are connected together under the ground to move natural gas from one point to another. Oftentimes, people can't see pipelines under the ground, so they forget that they are there!

Energy companies mark pipelines using signs and other warning markers. These markers show the operator's name, phone number, product, and approximately where the pipe is underground, but they do not show the exact location or how deep the pipe is.

Whenever you or your parents ever want to dig in the ground, you should always call 811 to have the pipelines around you marked. If you do not call, you may accidentally hit a pipeline and cause damage or a natural gas leak.



Spot a leak!

Although natural gas pipeline leaks are uncommon, it is good to know the warning signs. The best way to spot a leak is to remember these three **S**'s – Sight, Smell and Sound.

- **Look** for:
 - A white cloud or fog
 - Discolored or dead plants
 - Flames coming from the ground
 - A pool of liquid
 - A slight mist of ice or frozen area on a pipeline
 - Continuous bubbling in a wet, flooded area or a rainbow of sheen on water
- **Smell** for:
 - An unusual odor or the scent of gas – natural gas in your home smells like rotten eggs or a skunk, whereas gas in a pipeline will NOT have this smell
- **Listen** for:
 - An unusual hissing or roaring noise coming from a pipeline

If there is a leak:

If you experience any signs of a leak, leave the area and tell an adult. The adult will call 911 and will make sure no one goes in the pipeline area. Energy company employees will come out and fix the pipe.



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