



Natural Gas Pipeline Information



About this course

The City of Uvalde pipeline response course is designed to provide awareness for emergency responders who may respond to an incident involving a City of Uvalde natural gas pipeline release.

Note: This is a general guide, and any further questions can be directed to local staff

Pipeline purpose and reliability

Role of pipelines in U.S. energy supply

Pipelines are the safest and most efficient method to transport the energy that we need and use every day.

Our pipelines and pipeline facilities are built using industry best practices, which include using the highest quality materials during construction and implementing a rigorous pipeline maintenance program. This includes the facilities required to safely operate the pipeline, like meter stations and compressor stations.



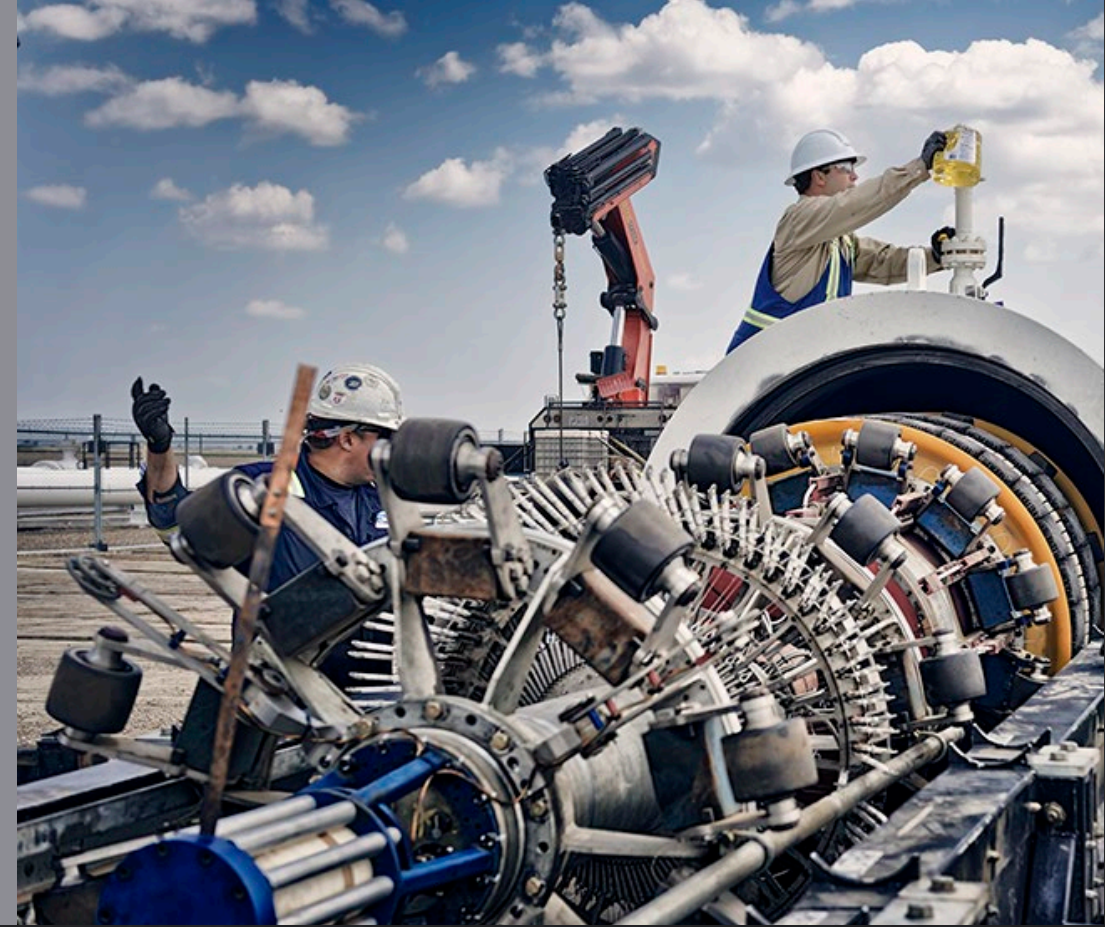
Energy transportation pipeline safety record

We aim for our pipelines and facilities to operate incident-free and to ensure our assets serve our people and communities across the continent for years to come.

Pipelines are the safest, most environmentally friendly way to transport natural gas and petroleum- period. Our pipeline safety programs are among the most robust in the industry and are the most important part of our business. From pipeline integrity innovations to investing in leak detection technology and public awareness programs, safety is the common link behind everything we do.

Types of City of Uvalde pipelines

We build and operate
safe and reliable
energy infrastructure.



The City of Uvalde operates utilities to provide water, gas and sewer services.

Federal & State regulatory agencies

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) regulates interstate pipelines in the United States.

The following is a list of state regulatory agencies that oversees pipelines within their state.

Federal & State regulatory agencies

Texas

Railroad Commission of Texas

<https://www.rrc.texas.gov/pipeline-safety/>

Hazard awareness and prevention measures

Overview of potential hazards of a gas release

Natural gas is extremely flammable and may explode if heated, natural gas may also displace oxygen and cause rapid suffocation.



Causes of pipeline failures

Although pipeline incidents are relatively rare, accidents do occur.

- The leading cause of pipeline accidents happen because third-party excavators do not call 811 for the proper locations of the pipe before they start digging.
- Even minor excavation activities can cause damage to a pipeline, it's protective coating or to other buried utility lines.
- Corrosion, material defects, worker error and events of nature can also be causes of pipeline failures.

Product release characteristics

Natural gas is an energy source composed mostly of methane.



Natural gas is said to be odorless, but some people detect a slight hydrocarbon smell. If the gas has been odorized, it could smell skunk-like or similar to rotten eggs. Natural gas is highly flammable and explosive.

Potential hazards from an accidental gas release

In the event of a natural gas pipeline release, the environment may be impacted and could result in injuries or fatalities as well as damage property.

- Dizziness or suffocation if a leak occurs in a confined space or high concentration.
- Ignition/fire if a spark or other ignition source is present.
- Potential explosion if the natural gas is mixed with air.
- Projectiles from site of leak or rupture propelled by the force of escaping gas.

Prevention measures undertaken

The City of Uvalde invests significant time and capital in the following preventive measures and procedures:

This includes but is not limited to:

- Preventive maintenance program.
- Ground surveys.
- Cathodic protection to inhibit corrosion.
- Hydro inspections to ensure the integrity of pipelines.

Leak recognition and response

Recognizing a gas pipeline leak

Although a pipeline leak is rare, it is important to know how to recognize the signs. Use your senses of sight, smell and hearing to detect a potential pipeline leak.



You might see:

- Dead or dying vegetation on/near the right-of-way in an area that is usually green.
- Bubbles in a body of water.
- Dirt being blown into the air.
- Ground frosting in summer.
- Possible fire or flames above the ground, if the leak has been ignited.



You might smell:

- Natural gas transmission lines are not usually odorized, though smaller gas distribution lines often have an additive to give it a sulphur or “rotten egg” smell.



You might hear:

- A roaring, hissing or whistling noise.

The City of Uvalde's response to a pipeline incident

In the unlikely event an incident should occur, the City of Uvalde will immediately dispatch trained personnel upon notification of an emergency.



The City of Uvalde will immediately respond by:

- Shutting down the affected pipeline if necessary.
- Isolating the impacted section of the pipeline through either automatic valve shutoff or manual valve operation.
- Dispatching emergency personnel to the location of the incident.

Emergency Responders response to a pipeline incident

- Secure the area around the leak.
- Evacuate the public.
- Contact the City of Uvalde as soon as possible at 830-278-6616 (M-F 8AM-5PM). After hours and holidays: 830-278-9147.
- Establish a command center.
- Control Ignition Sources.



**The City of
Uvalde
liaison with
Emergency
Officials**



The City of Uvalde shall establish and maintain a liaison with appropriate fire, police and other public officials to:

- Learn the responsibility and resources of each government organization that may respond to a facility emergency.
- Acquaint officials with the Company's ability to respond to a facility emergency.
- Identify the types of facility emergencies in which they may be notified.
- Plan how the Company and Emergency Officials can engage in mutual assistance that will minimize hazards to life and/or property.

**Emergency
preparedness
communications:**



The City of Uvalde's priority to protect life

The City of Uvalde makes a continuous effort to ensure the Emergency Response Plan is executed to protect life, preserve the environment, and communicate the status of an emergency to all stakeholders.

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

State law requires you to notify Texas811 at least **48 HOURS BEFORE YOU DIG**. This is a **FREE** service.

For general 811 information, visit:

www.call811.com

For Texas One-Call rules, visit:

www.texas811.org



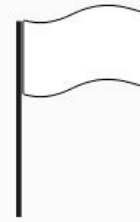
**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Follow these five steps to stay safe

1. Call 811 Before You Dig
2. Wait two business days
3. Watch for the mark
4. Dig with care!
5. Report damage immediately

Marking Color Code

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

Sewer and drain lines

Pipeline location information

The general location of pipelines can be determined by two characteristics:

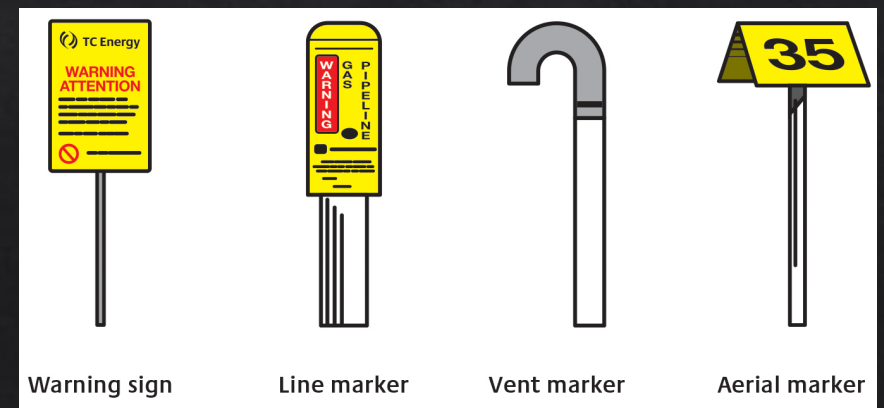
- ▣ a pipeline right-of-way (ROW)
- ▣ pipeline markers

Right-of-way (ROW)

- A ROW can usually be recognized as a clear strip of land in a linear or fairly straight line, cleared of structures and trees.
- The ROW contains the pipeline and a buffer area that usually extends 25 feet or more on either side of the pipeline where certain activities are restricted to ensure the continued safety and integrity of the pipeline.
- The ROW must be kept clear of fences, buildings, trees or any other type of structure. The impact of a fence post, weight of a shed or the roots of a tree can cause either immediate or long-term damage to the pipeline.
- These could also impede access to the area for any required maintenance or emergency situations, resulting in safety risks and possible costly impacts to structures on the ROW.

Pipeline markers

- Found within line-of-sight on a ROW and at locations where the pipeline crosses streets, highways, waterways and railways.
- Markers only show the approximate location of the pipeline, and the depth of the line may vary. You cannot use pipeline markers as a determination of where or where not to dig.
- Pipeline markers display the pipeline operator, emergency number and the product transported in the pipeline.
- It is against the law to willfully deface, damage, remove or destroy and pipeline sign.



National Pipeline Mapping System

- Allows public access to view pipeline maps.
- Search for pipeline operator contact information in a selected county, state or zip code.
- Transmission lines only.





**Additional
information
on
company
website**

For additional information about the City of Uvalde pipelines and to connect with your City of Uvalde representative, please visit:

<https://pipeline.uvaldetx.gov/>

The City of Uvalde Emergency Response Preparedness Tools

- ◇ City of Uvalde Emergency Response Plans, please contact the City of Uvalde at **830-278-6616** (M-F 8AM – 5PM). After hours and holidays: **830-278-9147**.
 - ◇ PHMSA Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG):
<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/training/hazmat/erg/emergency-response-guidebook-erg>
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Emergency contacts

To report an emergency, call 911 and immediately notify the City of Uvalde at **830-278-6616** (M-F 8AM – 5PM). After hours and holidays: **830-278-9147**.

Questions?