



Natural gas and pipeline safety: **Be aware!**



Our underground pipelines are the safest, most efficient way to deliver natural gas to your home. Underground gas pipelines can be hard to detect, and we sometimes mark pipelines with brightly colored sign posts in areas where pipelines may be more susceptible to damages. You may not even notice them, but it is important to remember precautions to keep our community safe.

Look for markers

Residential and commercial development in once rural areas is encroaching on pipeline rights-of-way (ROW) with increasing frequency. Encroachment implies safety concerns for local residents and for the physical integrity of the pipeline itself. To help prevent encroachment and excavation-related damage to pipelines, we install brightly-colored sign posts along the pipeline (ROW) to indicate the presence – **but not necessarily the exact location** – of underground pipelines. Markers come in a variety of shapes and sizes. They contain information about the nearby pipeline as well as **emergency contact information**.

Due to the safety needs surrounding pipelines, community and governmental decisions regarding land use may affect pipelines and public safety. Everything

possible should be done to keep ROWs as free of physical encumbrances as possible in order to ensure reasonable and frequent visual inspections of the pipeline from the air and ground. In addition, a clear ROW helps ensure ease of access for repairs.

National Pipeline Mapping System

The National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) website at www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov enables users to view NPMS data one county at a time. NPMS data consists of gas transmission pipelines and hazardous liquid trunklines. It does not contain gathering or distribution pipelines, such as lines which deliver gas to an individual customer's home. Therefore, not all pipelines in an area will be visible in the public map viewer. **NPMS data is for reference purposes only. It should never be used as a substitute for contacting Kentucky 8-1-1 prior to excavating. Call 8-1-1 before you dig.**

Dig with care

Before doing any digging, everyone, including the general public, should ensure the locations of underground utilities in the area are marked. Call Kentucky 811 (dial 8-1-1). They will coordinate with

Kentucky 811 member utilities in the area to have their underground lines marked free of charge to the caller.

The process to notify Kentucky 811 member utilities is designed to protect the public and the property. It requires that you:

1. **Call 8-1-1** at least two business days prior to excavation.
2. **Wait** until the lines have been marked before you begin digging.
3. **Respect the marks.**

If you see digging in an area where buried utility lines have not been located (paint on the ground or flags placed in the grass), protect yourself and your neighbors by reporting it immediately to us at 502-627-4427. Provide the address where the excavation is occurring and the name of the company or individual doing the excavating.

Leak Detection

LG&E performs regular leak surveys of its gas distribution system and a distinctive odor is added to the natural gas to aid in identifying gas leaks. Gas odor levels are monitored on a regular basis to ensure adequate levels of the odorant are present in the gas.

Call LG&E at (502) 589-5511 (outside Louisville
800-331-7370) for any natural gas concern or
emergency, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Although LG&E adds the odorant to natural gas to aid in the detection of leaks, you should not rely solely on your sense of smell to determine if there is a gas leak. Some persons may not be able to smell the odor because they have a diminished sense of smell or because the odor is being masked by other odors in the area. In addition, there may be rare conditions, such as odor fade (loss of odorant) which may occur and cause the odor to diminish so that it is not detectable.

Outdoors – If you live, work or play near a natural gas pipeline, the following signs may help you detect a leak on or near the pipeline right-of-way:

- You may **HEAR** a blowing or hissing sound.
- You may **SEE** dust blowing from a hole in the ground, continuous bubbling in one spot in wet or flooded areas, dead vegetation, abnormally dry or hardened soil or fire appearing as if it is coming from the ground or burning above the ground.
- You may **SMELL** a gaseous or hydrocarbon odor (similar to sulfur or rotten eggs).

If you suspect a gas leak outdoors:

1. Shut down and abandon any equipment being used in or near the area.
2. Avoid open flame and other sources of ignition. Do not start any motor vehicles or electrical equipment.
3. Evacuate the area and prevent unsuspecting people from entering.
4. Notify us at 1-502-589-5511 (1-800-331-7370)

- immediately so the leak can be verified and if necessary corrective action can take place.
5. Get help from local law enforcement officials to isolate the area.
6. Do not attempt to extinguish a natural gas fire. Request the local fire department to protect adjacent property.
7. Do not attempt to operate any pipeline valves.

Indoors – The following signs may help you detect a leak inside a building:

- You may **SMELL** a gaseous or hydrocarbon odor (similar to sulfur or rotten eggs). A faint odor of natural gas may mean that a pilot light has gone out on an appliance and should be re-lit or that there is some other leak or problem present. Open the doors and windows for ventilation. Don't try to re-light a gas furnace, water heater or range until you are sure there is no natural gas left inside the building.
- You or someone in the building may experience dizziness, headache, nausea, fatigue or flu-like symptoms. This could be a sign that a severe natural gas leak or more likely a release of carbon monoxide has occurred, which may be the result of an improperly adjusted natural gas appliance inside your home or workplace.

If you suspect a natural gas leak, **DO NOT** use a telephone or flashlight, switch a light on or off, light a match or create any other ignition source. Leaking

natural gas can ignite, so you should immediately leave the house and go to a safe area where there is no indication of a natural gas leak. This may be a neighbor's house. **Call us at 1-502-589-5511 (outside Louisville 1-800-331-7370).** You should do the same thing if you suspect carbon monoxide is present in the home. Carbon monoxide detectors can be purchased from home improvement stores or from various online sources.

LG&E's Integrity Management Program

Safety is our priority at LG&E. For this reason, our lines are monitored and inspected so we can locate and fix potential problems before they occur. We also implement a pipeline integrity management program that includes identifying areas along our pipelines where the consequences of a failure would be significant, conducting inspections to verify the integrity of the pipeline, implementing pipeline safety communications plans, identifying pipeline risks and implementing measures to reduce pipeline risks.

Additional safety information, including emergency preparedness and land use practices is available on our website at www.lge-ku.com/rsc/lge/gas_safety.asp. You can also **call LG&E at (502) 589-5511 (outside Louisville 800-331-7370) for any natural gas concern or emergency. You can reach us 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.**