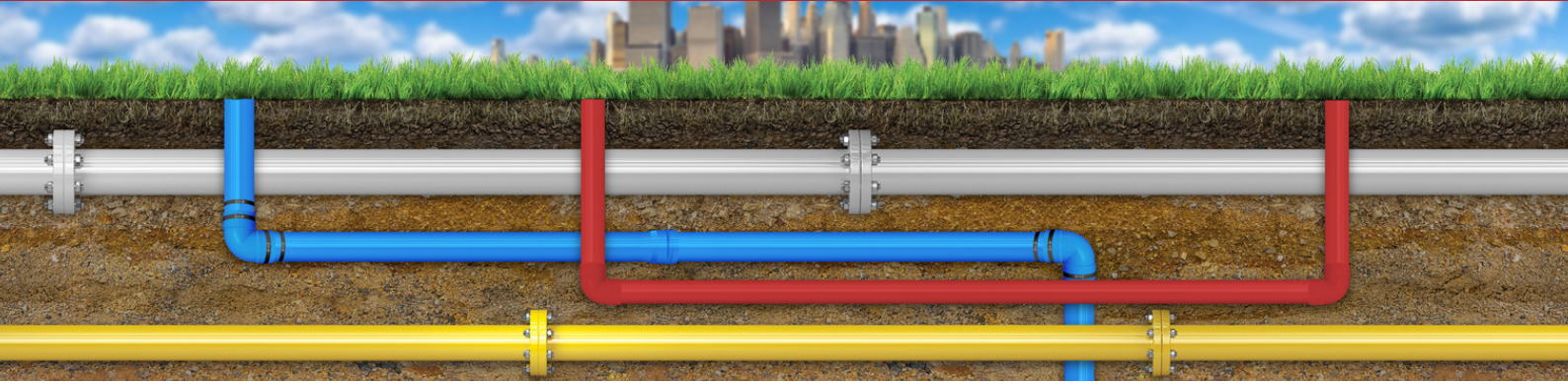


TOOLBOX TALK: PIPELINE SAFETY



Pipelines and Excavation: What you need to know to work safely

- The energy transportation network of the United States consists of more than 2.5 million miles of pipelines. That's enough to circle the earth about 100 times.
- Pipelines can contain hazardous gas and liquids and are operated at high pressures. Although they do not pose a risk to the public and crews while safely moving their products under the ground, excavation and other types of disturbances like moving heavy loads over the pipelines, can have severe consequences, especially if these products are ignited. Escaping gases can also displace oxygen.
- You can protect yourself and the public by avoiding damages to buried pipelines.

4 STEPS TO SAFE DIGGING

CALL OR CLICK BEFORE YOU DIG

It's not only a best practice, but it's also the law! Call 811 or contact your local one call center to have pipelines and underground utilities marked. Many states now have online ticket options.

WAIT THE REQUIRED AMOUNT OF TIME

Generally, 2-3 business days, depending on state requirements.
Inspect the marks and ensure that all operators on the ticket have responded.

RESPECT THE MARKS

Underground utilities should be marked with permanent signage and/or temporary paint and flags. Markings are an approximate location of the facility, verify the state's tolerance zone and hand dig near the marks.

EXCAVATE WITH CARE

Pothole or hand dig to determine exact location of pipelines. Support and protect any exposed facilities. Follow any specific instructions provided by the pipeline company.

PIPELINE EMERGENCIES

Recognize Unsafe Conditions: Pools of liquid, blowing dirt, hissing sounds, vapor clouds, gaseous odors, bubbles in standing water, dead vegetation and frozen soil or ice next to a pipeline are all signs of a leak and should be treated as an emergency.

How to Respond in a Pipeline Emergency: Immediately leave the area while avoiding any action that may cause ignition. Abandon all equipment and get a safe distance away upwind. Call 911 and then immediately notify the pipeline company. Keep others away and wait for emergency officials to arrive. Stay upwind, do not attempt to repair the damaged facility, and do not attempt to operate pipeline valves or extinguish any pipeline fires.

Always Report Damage: Even a minor scrape, nick, cut, tear, break or dent needs to be reported to the facility owner immediately. This includes pipe coating and tracer wires, which are critical to protecting facilities.



 SCAN ME

Download a
digital copy of our
Excavation Safety
Guide.