



# EXCAVATING AND DIGGING SAFELY AROUND PIPELINES

**SOUTHERN STAR EMERGENCY NUMBER: 1-800-324-9696**

NON-EMERGENCY INQUIRIES: 1-888-885-6008



26EXBROSSC

You received this brochure because you have been identified as someone who excavates near where Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc. ("Southern Star") pipelines exist.

Para la versión en español de este folleto, visite nuestro sitio web. [www.southernstar.com/safety/pipeline-safety/#pl-safety-brochures](http://www.southernstar.com/safety/pipeline-safety/#pl-safety-brochures)

**Scan QR code on back for your chance to WIN!**



## CONTACT INFORMATION

**PUBLIC AWARENESS DEPARTMENT: 1-888-885-6008**

**E-MAIL US AT: [publicawareness@southernstar.com](mailto:publicawareness@southernstar.com)**

**WEBSITE: [www.southernstar.com](http://www.southernstar.com)**

### **This brochure contains information about safe excavating, including:**

- Recognizing a right-of-way and pipeline marker
- Recognizing a pipeline leak
- Potential hazards of natural gas pipeline release
- Responding to a pipeline leak
- Southern Star's response to a leak
- Damaging or disturbing a pipeline
- National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS)
- Pipeline purpose & reliability
- Maintaining safety and integrity of pipelines and storage facilities
- Calling 811 and damage prevention



## RECOGNIZING A RIGHT-OF-WAY AND PIPELINE MARKER

A pipeline right-of-way is a strip of land over and around a pipeline where some of the property owner's legal rights have been granted to a pipeline company. Pipeline right-of-ways must be kept free from structures and other obstructions for your safety and to provide access in the event of maintenance or an emergency. If a pipeline crosses your property, do not plant trees, high shrubs, or any vegetation that would impede access to the right-of-way. Likewise, do not dig, excavate, operate heavy equipment, build, or place/store anything on the right-of-way. Pipeline markers are found within the pipeline right-of-way.



## PIPELINE MARKERS

- Indicate **approximate** location, but not exact location or depth
- Can be found where lines meet at public access points, above-ground facilities, streets, highways, waterways, and railway intersections
- Display the pipeline operator name, emergency number, and product transported

## RECOGNIZING A PIPELINE LEAK



### SIGHT

Natural gas is colorless, but vapor and “ground frosting” may be visible at high pressures. A gas leak may also be indicated by bubbles in wet or flooded areas, distinct patches of dead vegetation, dust blowing from a hole in the ground, or flames if the leak is ignited.



### SOUND

Volume can range from a quiet hissing to a loud roar depending on the size of the leak and pipeline system.



### SMELL

An unusual smell or gaseous odor will sometimes accompany pipeline leaks. A sulfur or rotten egg like odorant called mercaptan is added to most residential area natural gas lines to aid in recognizing a leak. While the natural gas transported in transmission/gas gathering pipelines is often odorless, a leak may give off a hydrocarbon or petroleum smell.

## POTENTIAL HAZARDS OF A NATURAL GAS PIPELINE RELEASE

The products we transport are flammable commodities. Therefore, a potential exists for a release to escalate into a fire or an explosion that could affect people and property in the vicinity of the pipeline. A gas release could cause negative impacts to personal health and the environment. It could also cause a loss of services, expensive repairs, and fines related to damaging a pipeline. A product release from a high-pressure natural gas pipeline could even create noise levels that are harmful to human hearing.

PRODUCT	LEAK TYPE	VAPORS	HEALTH HAZARDS	FIRE HAZARDS
Natural Gas	Gas	Lighter than air	Extremely high concentrations may cause irritation or asphyxiation	Extremely flammable and easily ignited by heat, sparks, or flames

## **RESPONDING TO A PIPELINE LEAK**

Follow these basic Dos and Don'ts to remain safe during a pipeline leak:

# DO

1. Leave the immediate area on foot! Move in a crosswind direction away from the leak or vapor cloud, and maintain a safe distance. Abandon any equipment being used in or near the area.
2. Go directly to a safe location, and then call 911 and Southern Star's emergency number.
3. Warn others to stay away from the leak.

# DO NOT

1. Cause any open flame or other potential source of ignition such as an electrical switch, vehicle ignition, lighting a match, ringing a doorbell, etc.
2. Come into direct contact with any escaping liquids or gas.
3. Drive into a leak or vapor cloud while leaving the area.
4. Attempt to operate any pipeline valves yourself. You may inadvertently route more product to the leak or cause a secondary incident.
5. Attempt to extinguish a natural gas fire.
6. Use telephones (including cell phones) or anything that could cause a spark.
7. Use e-mail, text, or the Internet to contact the company about a leak.
8. Assume someone else has reported the leak.

## **SOUTHERN STAR'S RESPONSE TO A PIPELINE LEAK**

In order to prepare for the event of a leak, Southern Star regularly communicates, plans, and trains with local emergency personnel such as fire and police departments. Upon the notification of an incident or leak, Southern Star will immediately dispatch trained personnel to assist public safety officials in our response to the emergency. Southern Star will also take steps to minimize the amount of product that leaks out and to isolate the pipeline. For more information about our emergency response plans, visit [www.southernstar.com](http://www.southernstar.com).

## **DAMAGING OR DISTURBING A PIPELINE**

Southern Star maintains a Damage Prevention Program in accordance with state and federal guidelines. If you cause or witness even minor damage to a pipeline or its protective coating, please immediately notify Southern Star. Even a small disturbance to a pipeline may cause a future leak. A gouge, scrape, dent, or crease is cause enough for Southern Star to inspect the damage and make repairs. Do not cover a pipeline that has been disturbed.

It makes it more difficult to find the damaged area.



## **NATIONAL PIPELINE MAPPING SYSTEM (NPMS)**



The location of Southern Star transmission pipelines can be found on the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) website at [www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov).

## **PIPELINE PURPOSE AND RELIABILITY**

Pipelines are the safest and most efficient means of transporting natural gas, according to National Transportation Safety Board statistics.

Southern Star owns and operates approximately 5,800 miles of high-strength steel natural gas pipelines in Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming, as well as eight underground natural gas storage fields located in Kansas and Oklahoma.

Underground storage facilities connect to the pipeline system and safely store natural gas. The ability to store gas helps to ensure we have an adequate and reliable supply of natural gas for our customers during times of high demand, such as cold winter days. You may be aware that much of our pipeline system and storage facilities are buried underground, but other facilities related to our business are above ground (e.g., compressor stations, meter stations, valves, etc.).

## **MAINTAINING SAFETY AND INTEGRITY OF PIPELINES AND STORAGE FACILITIES**

Southern Star monitors the operation of our pipeline system 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Routine inspections, computer monitoring systems, corrosion protection, maintenance, and regular employee training events are just a few of the ways we ensure the safe and reliable operations of our pipeline and storage facilities. Our pipelines and storage wells are designed, tested, installed, operated, and maintained in accordance with all applicable federal and state requirements.

Gas transmission pipeline operators have developed hazard and assessment programs known as integrity management programs (IMPs). IMPs have been implemented for areas designated as “high consequence areas” in accordance with federal regulations. Specific information about Southern Star’s program may be found on our website, or by contacting us directly.

High consequence areas (HCAs) have been identified, and a plan has been implemented for environmentally sensitive areas, urbanized and populated areas, and navigable waterways. This plan provides elevated protection for those occupying highly populated areas, open structures such as playgrounds and stadiums, as well as hospitals, schools, and other facilities where people have limited mobility or would be difficult to evacuate. These are called identified sites.

# CALLING 811 AND DAMAGE PREVENTION

Unsafe excavation around pipelines is dangerous. Excavating includes any activity which requires moving dirt or operation of heavy equipment, such as construction of homes, roads, fences, drives, ditches, or other facilities.

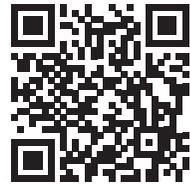
You are required by law to contact 811, "Call Before You Dig," at least 48 hours prior to excavating. The One Call Center will then notify Southern Star and other underground utility operators in the area of your planned digging project.

Once Southern Star has marked their facilities with paint and/or flags, a Southern Star representative must be on site prior to excavation. This will ensure that the encroaching party meets Southern Star's standards. In the event of noncompliance with Southern Star's standards, a Southern Star representative has the responsibility and authority to stop any work that jeopardizes Southern Star facilities.

Please visit <https://call811.com/811-In-Your-State> for state specific one call information.



**SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS.  
EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME.**



## This color code chart will help determine which utilities have marked their 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 - Communications, alarm or signal lines, cables, or conduit



BLUE - Potable water lines



PURPLE - Reclaimed water, irrigation, and slurry lines



GREEN - Sewer lines

## FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES

### Pipeline Resources and Information

811 - [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com)

Pipeline 101 - [www.pipeline101.org](http://www.pipeline101.org)

Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) - [www.phmsa.dot.gov](http://www.phmsa.dot.gov)

National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) - [www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov)

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