

Natural gas is lighter than air. It is non-toxic and contains no poisonous ingredients. Breathing natural gas is not harmful as long as there is an adequate supply of fresh air to breathe with it. Natural gas by itself will not burn. Combustion or explosion can only occur when the gas and air mixes between 5%-15% natural gas with an ignition source. We add an odorant that smells like rotten eggs to the natural gas so you can smell it.

If you smell a faint odor of natural gas inside your home or business:

- Investigate immediately.
- If the source of the odor cannot be located or corrected, call Superior Utilities immediately at
 - 911
 - 402-879-4711 during work hoursA representative of the Superior Gas Department will come to you and make an inspection at no charge to you.
- Do not smoke, strike a match, operate an electric switch, cellular phone, telephone, flashlight, lighter, etc. Each of these can ignite natural gas.
- If the odor persists, **TAKE NO CHANCES.** Get out of the building immediately, go to a safe location at least half a block away and then call the City of Superior from a nearby telephone.

City of Superior
135 W 4th St
Superior NE 68978

Living Safely



With
Natural Gas
Pipelines



402-879-4711



PIPELINE INFORMATION

City of Superior Utilities operates underground natural gas pipelines in the City of Superior and the surrounding area. We are providing this safety information as part of our pipeline damage prevention program to our customers and neighbors who live and work in the vicinity of our facilities. Please share this with others.

WHAT IS NATURAL GAS?

Natural gas is the cleanest burning fossil fuel. It moves silently, safely and efficiently through an extensive network of pipelines in our distribution system.

Here are some reassuring facts about natural gas:

- It is not a poison or toxic.
- It is naturally colorless and odorless
- It will not ignite on its own. To burn, gas needs a precise amount of oxygen and an ignition source.
- It is lighter than air and will rise and disperse quickly.

ARE PIPELINES SAFE?

Natural gas pipelines are the safest method of transporting energy. They are underground, virtually unseen as they deliver gas to our customers. Although the Superior Utilities follow strict pipeline safety procedures, it is still important for everyone to know basic safety information.

While pipeline companies and employees across the nation are on a heightened state of awareness, we continue to monitor and patrol pipelines by vehicle and on foot. Please call the police if you see anything out of the ordinary in your area. Together we can take precautions to keep the City of Superior safe.



IF YOU ARE AN EXCAVATOR OR PLAN TO DIG

People excavating, digging or grading are the most frequent cause of pipeline damage and failures. If you are planning a major project or landscaping your property, you should protect your safety and the safety of those around your work site by notifying **Diggers Hotline** before you begin. When notified in advance by Diggers Hotline, Superior Utility personnel mark the location of the pipelines. This free service allows you to begin your project with the assurance your safety is not at risk and our pipeline will not be damaged.

WHAT IF I DIG AND DISTURB A PIPELINE?

If you hit or contact a pipeline in any way, inform the Superior Utilities immediately. A gouge, scrape, scratch, dent or crease to a pipe or its coating may cause a future safety problem. It is imperative the Superior Utilities inspects and repairs any damage to our pipelines, no matter how minor it appears.

WHAT SAFETY PROCEDURES SHOULD I TAKE?

When it comes to the safety of you or anyone else near the pipeline, it is important to know the procedures to take when someone has damaged a pipeline or you suspect a leak.

If you or anyone else accidentally damages or suspects a gas leak on a Superior Utilities pipeline, follow these procedures:

1. Leave the area immediately and warn others to stay away from the area.
2. If you suspect your excavation equipment has struck a pipeline, do not attempt to move the equipment. Shut it off and leave the area.
3. Once away from the pipeline, call **911**, the Nuckolls County dispatch, to get the police, fire and utility departments.

The emergency number is staffed by trained emergency personnel, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They are trained to respond and direct emergency calls to the proper authorities, gather the most accurate information regarding an incident and dispatch the proper personnel to the emergency as quickly as possible.



APWA Uniform Color Code:	
PROPOSED EXCAVATION	TEMPORARY SURVEY MARKING
ELECTRIC, POWER LINES	GAS, OIL, STEAM, CHEMICAL
CABLE, COMMUNICATION	SEWER, STORM DRAIN
IRRIGATION	POTABLE WATER

Before you begin any excavation project, call **Diggers Hotline**. This service is available to you, free of charge, so you can proceed safely with any digging, trenching, excavating, drilling, auguring, plowing, boring and grading. Never guess where a pipeline is located.

If you damage or hit a Superior Utility pipeline, no matter how minor the contact, call the Superior Utilities immediately at **911** so we can assess the damage.

Before excavating, call **Diggers Hotline** at **811** or **800-331-5666** or go to their web site at www.ne-diggers.com.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to call Diggers Hotline?

Yes! Calling the Nebraska One Call is required by state law (Nebraska statute 76-2321) designed to protect the public and our underground facilities.

If I'm a subcontractor on the job, do I have to get a ticket or will the general contractor's ticket protect me?

There is no blanket ticket - the general contractor's ticket does **NOT** apply to anyone but them. If you are a subcontractor and excavating, protect you and your company by getting a ticket.

I excavated two months ago and the marks are still faintly visible. Do I need another ticket?

Yes. The ticket is only good for 17 days. After then, it must be renewed.



Signs of a Natural Gas Pipeline Leak

Leaks from a natural gas pipeline are extremely rare. Year after year, the National Transportation Safety Board statistics support the industry's safety record. However, it is important to know how to recognize the signs of a leak if one occurs in your area.

Call right away if you:

See

- Dead or dying vegetation over or near the pipeline for no apparent reason
- Water bubbling in a creek, pond or other wet area
- Dirt being blown or appearing to be thrown into the air
- Fire or explosion near or involving the pipeline
- Exposed pipeline, perhaps caused by natural disaster, such as flooding or uprooted trees

Hear

- A hissing, whistling or roaring sound

Smell

- Natural gas is colorless and odorless, but may have a petroleum smell at times. We add odorant to the gas, giving it a "rotten egg" smell

Steps to take IF you suspect a gas leak

1. Leave the area immediately
2. If you are excavating, do NOT attempt to move the equipment. Shut it off and leave the area.
3. Once away from the pipeline, call Nuckolls County dispatch at 911 for the police, fire and gas departments.



CALL 911 TO REPORT A LEAK

DO NOT operate anything that may ignite a gas leak (CELLULAR TELEPHONES, lighters, flashlights, vehicle ignition, two-way radios, etc.)

DO NOT go near the area. Keep others away from the site

DO NOT attempt to shut off any valves or extinguish any fires.





IF YOU LIVE OR WORK NEAR A PIPELINE

HOW CAN I TELL WHERE A PIPELINE IS?

Since natural gas pipelines are underground, their location and depth are difficult to determine. Never assume the pipeline lies in a straight line. Always call **Diggers Hotline** before digging. It is a crime for anyone to deliberately damage, destroy, move or remove any pipeline sign or right-of-way marker.

Pipelines can lose cover by erosion or other forces. If you see indications a pipeline is shallow or exposed, call Superior Utilities at 402-879-4711.

WHAT IS A PIPELINE RIGHT-OF-WAY?

A pipeline right-of-way is the strip of land over a pipeline. The right-of-way agreement between the utility and property owner is called an easement and part of the property deed. Easements provide the utility with permanent, limited access to the strip of land so we can operate, maintain, test inspect and protect the pipeline.

CAN I BUILD/DIG ON A RIGHT-OF-WAY?

Pipeline right-of-way must be kept clear of buildings and other obstructions. If a pipeline crosses your property, do not plant trees, scrubs on or near the right-of-way without first calling **Diggers Hotline** to have the easement and pipeline marked and explain the construction guidelines to you.

WHO SHOULD I CALL IF I DETECT GAS IN MY HOUSE?

If you suspect a natural gas leak in your home or on your service line, immediately evacuate you home and call **911** for the police, fire and gas departments.



IF YOU ARE A PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICIAL

A public safety official must take whatever steps are necessary to safeguard the public in the event of a pipeline emergency. Use the following suggestions as a guide:

- Notify the appropriate pipeline company. Report the type (leak, rupture fire) and the location of the emergency. If it is a Superior Utility pipeline, call **911** for the police, fire and gas departments.
- Establish a safety zone around the emergency site and control access. This may mean evacuating people within the safety zone.
- If gas is not burning, avoid anything that may ignite it. Be aware of wind direction and potential ignition sources.
- If gas is burning, control the secondary fires, but do not attempt to put out the pipeline fire. Do not attempt to operate pipeline valves.

While emergency first responders are doing their tasks, our pipeline people will do their work to protect lives and property:

- Removing all people from the danger zone to prevent injury. If the gas is not on fire, remove sources of ignition.
- Help people in distress
- Eliminate the natural gas source either near the emergency or remotely. Know that some valves are normally closed. The pipeline employees are responsible to operate the appropriate valves to isolate the affected area.



The US Department of Transportation requires signs indicating underground gas pipelines. Markers are at road, railroad and navigable waterway crossings and along pipeline right-of-way. The markers display:

- The material transported in the pipeline
- The name of the pipeline operator
- The telephone number to reach the operator in an emergency.

This is a typical marker for the Superior Gas Utilities.



For more information about pipelines see www.pipeline101.com

To view a list of pipeline operations in your area, www.npms.rspa.dot.gov

For more information about excavation practices around underground utilities see www.commongroundalliance.com or www.digsafely.com