

Awareness Of Hazards And Prevention Measures

Causes of pipeline damage

- ◆ Third party excavation damage
- ◆ Corrosion
- ◆ Material defects
- ◆ Worker error
- ◆ Events of nature

Overview of potential consequences

- ◆ Potential consequences of pipeline failures include injuries and even fatalities, as well as costly property and environmental damage.
- ◆ The goal of the OPS pipeline safety programs is to improve industry performance and communication, so that no pipeline incidents and no injuries or fatalities occur.

Summary of prevention measures undertaken

- ◆ Pipelines are operated under a variety of federal and state regulations and industry standards intended to ensure public and environmental safety and health.
- ◆ Pipeline operators are inspected by both federal and state pipeline safety inspectors to ensure they meet or exceed these regulatory requirements and standards.
- ◆ Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the pipeline operator to ensure the safety of its pipelines.

What can I do to help keep pipelines safe?

- ◆ Become aware of the presence of pipeline in your area.
- ◆ Know what to look for to recognize a pipeline emergency or unusual pipeline condition.
- ◆ Know what to do in the event of pipeline emergency.
- ◆ Anyone planning to dig, needs to call Diggers Hotline of Nebraska at 811 at least 48 hours (not including Saturdays and Sundays or legal holidays) in advance of beginning the excavation. It's the law!

How To Get Additional Information

Pipelines provide service around the clock 365 days a year, but usually are considered "silent partners." Since we cannot see them, we do not pay much attention to them. We owe it to ourselves to learn more about pipelines - where they are, how they operate, and what to do if we have or suspect a problem.

For more information about pipelines, contact the following industry association websites:

- American Gas Association, www.aga.org
- American Petroleum Institute, www.api.org
- American Public Gas Association, www.apga.org
- Association of Oil Pipe Lines, www.aopl.org
- Interstate Natural Gas Assoc. of American, www.ingaa.org
- Pipeline 101, www.pipeline101.com
- Dig Safely, www.digsafely.com

Pipeline Purpose & Reliability

Benefits of pipeline

- ◆ The ability to transport one of our vital resources safely and without damage to our environment is a unique advantage of pipelines.
- ◆ Natural gas is our second largest source of energy.
- ◆ Natural gas has many different uses:
 - Power companies use it to generate electricity.
 - Industries use it for heat and as a source of power.
 - Millions of households rely on natural gas for heating and cooking.
 - Liquid propane gas and compressed natural gas, which are produced from natural gas, provide the convenience of natural gas to locations where pipeline distribution is not available.

Safety

Based on a comparison of the annual number of accidents and resulting injuries, transportation by pipeline is safer than any other form of freight transportation, including highway, railroad, ship and plane.

Safety is maintained during operation. Once a pipeline is built, tested and placed in service, Wahoo Utilities Natural Gas Department monitors the safety of its system in several ways including:

1. Posting markers with emergency telephone numbers along our right of way to let the public know underground pipelines are in the area.
2. Routinely patrolling our pipeline routes on the ground to inspect and identify potential problems and assist in preventing third-party excavation damage.
3. Performing regular inspection and maintenance of facilities, including leak surveys and safety-device checks on valves.
4. Meeting periodically with state and local emergency officials to review accident-prevention and emergency-response procedures.

A company that sells natural gas to homes must deliver the natural gas to all of the customers throughout a community. The natural gas lines that are buried under a street or in yards are considered part of a distribution system. The gas lines that run up and down the street are called mains. The gas lines that run from the main to the houses or businesses are called service lines.



605 N. Broadway
Wahoo, Nebraska 68066
402-443-4213 (24 hour emergency number)
402-443-3222 (8:00-5:00 M-F)

NATURAL GAS

SAFE, CLEAN, EFFICIENT

Wahoo Utilities Natural Gas Department

Public Awareness Program

Our goal is to provide safe, reliable gas service to our customers and ensure the safety of people living and/or working near our gas pipelines. Public awareness is a critical component of our overall safety program. Every employee of Wahoo Utilities Natural Gas Dept. is committed to fulfilling our public awareness responsibilities as described in this Public Awareness Program.



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SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Potential Hazards Of Natural Gas

Natural gas is a highly flammable, combustible gas. Therefore, certain precautions should be taken with natural gas as with any other form of energy, such as electricity. There is a potential for a gas leak to result in a fire or explosion.

Nebraska state law requires excavators to notify utilities when buried facilities are damaged, even if there is not an apparent leak and/or minimal damage. Natural gas is lighter than air, non-toxic, flammable and has a rotten-egg like odor. If you detect a leak notify the local fire department and Wahoo Utilities Natural Gas Dept. immediately.

There are also many other reasons why it is extremely important to notify Wahoo Utilities Natural Gas Dept. if a pipeline is damaged.

- ❖ It is possible that unseen buried fittings could have been damaged when the pipeline was struck or pulled.
- ❖ Gas may be leaking underground that you are not aware of. Wahoo Utilities Natural Gas Dept. has sensitive equipment that can detect such leaks.
- ❖ Steel pipe is protected from corrosion with a special coating. If the coating is not repaired, a hazardous leak could develop later.
- ❖ Plastic pipe has a small wire running its length approximately six inches above it. This wire enables Wahoo Utilities Natural Gas Dept. to locate the pipeline. If the wire is damaged, we will be unable to locate the line in the future.
- ❖ If you discover damage to Wahoo Utilities Natural Gas Dept. facilities, which appears to have occurred some time ago, please contact our office. This will enable necessary repairs to be made and relieve you of potential future liability since you were excavating in the area.
- ❖ Washout of soils on the pipeline right-of-way, or along river and stream banks are a concern. Erosion can expose a pipeline to damage from machinery or the elements. The pipeline company will take action to protect the pipeline.

How To Recognize A Natural Gas Leak

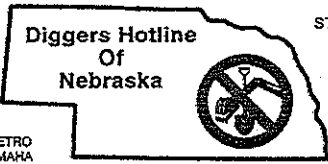
- Hissing or blowing sound
- Dirt being blown into the air
- Fire at or near exposed piping
- Fire apparently emanating from the ground
- Water blowing into the air at a pond, creek or river
- Vegetation dead or brown
- "Rotten egg" odor

Response To A Natural Gas Leak

All Wahoo Utilities Natural Gas Dept. technicians and other emergency response personnel have been trained for all necessary procedures to follow in the event of a natural gas leak.

If you suspect a natural gas leak:

- Leave the leak area immediately.
- Do not touch, breathe, or make contact with leaking gas.
- Do not light a match, start an engine, use a telephone, switch on/off lights or do anything that may create a spark.
- From a safe location, call 9-1-1 or your local emergency response number and the pipeline company. Call collect, if needed, and give your name, phone number, a description of the leak and its location.
- Warn others to stay away.
- Do not drive into a leak or vapor cloud area.
- Walk into the wind away from possible hazardous fumes.
- Do not attempt to make any repairs or operate natural gas valves unless instructed to do so by Wahoo Utilities Natural Gas Dept. personnel.



**Diggers Hotline
Of
Nebraska**

811
STATEWIDE

METRO
OMAHA
344-3565

Everyone must contact Diggers Hotline of Nebraska before digging - it's the law-IT'S FREE

What happens when Diggers Hotline is notified

1. Wait for the site to be marked.
2. Respect the marks.
3. Dig with care.

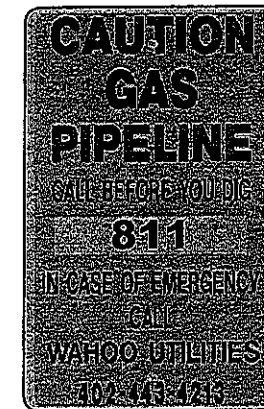
The required 48 hours advance notice does not include Saturdays and Sundays or legal holidays.

Third Party Damage

The biggest threat to the safety of a pipeline arises from people or companies, referred to as third-parties, digging in the vicinity of buried pipeline without realizing the pipeline is there.

- Damage can result from large or small excavation projects, ranging from a contractor constructing a building to a homeowner installing a fence, flag pole, mailbox or doing landscaping.
- Farming operations that are considered to be excavations requiring a call to Diggers Hotline of Nebraska include chisel plowing, sub-soiling or ripping more than 15 inches in depth, drain tile excavating, terracing, digging or driving a post in a new location, other than replacing a post, while repairing a fence in its existing location and similar operations.
- Please remember to be aware of barricades surrounding above ground pipelines.

Severe damage can cause the pipeline to leak or rupture, resulting in an immediate hazard to life and property. Even damage which appears to be minor can, over time, weaken a pipeline, causing a leak or rupture in the future.



- This is what Wahoo Utilities Natural Gas Dept. pipeline markers look like.
- Pipeline markers are NOT always placed on top of the pipeline.
- Markers and warning signs only indicate the general location of a pipeline.
- They cannot be relied upon to indicate the exact position of the pipeline they mark.

- The pipeline may not follow a straight course between markers.
- The markers provide no information on the depth or number of pipelines in the vicinity.
- Contact the pipeline operator or Diggers Hotline of Nebraska for help in determining the specific location of a pipeline prior to beginning any excavation.