

# PIPELINE SAFETY

For Your School



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

**Western Midstream™**

**For more information, please contact  
Western Midstream at:  
[pipelinesafety@westernmidstream.com](mailto:pipelinesafety@westernmidstream.com)**



## **Western Midstream's highest priority is the safe and reliable transportation and delivery of natural gas and petroleum products.**

It is essential to know the facts about pipeline safety and be aware of pipeline locations and operations. This brochure contains important information about pipeline identification, safety, and damage prevention. Using this information as part of your school emergency preparedness planning will help ensure the safety of you, your staff, faculty, and students. We encourage you to review the information, fill out, and return the enclosed questionnaire, which will help us continuously improve how we communicate about pipeline safety.

### **Pipeline purpose and reliability**

The U.S. has the largest pipeline network in the world, and according to data collected by the U.S. Department of Transportation, pipelines are one of the safest ways to transport natural gas and petroleum products. The natural gas and petroleum products in the pipelines are ultimately used by residential, commercial, industrial and storage facility customers.

### **Climate change and greenhouse gas emissions**

At Western Midstream, we believe that climate change is a significant challenge. Our environmental compliance efforts reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across our operations, which protects the environment and helps us operate safely and efficiently. For example, we reduce emissions across the oil and gas value chain through our direct-from-wellhead pipeline infrastructure and operational innovations, which reduces the need for equipment at the wellhead and minimizes GHG emissions at our customers' facilities. Additionally, we follow industry-leading practices to reduce direct emissions, leaks, and overall energy use, including implementing leak detection and repair systems.

### **How we keep our pipelines safe**

Western Midstream operates petroleum and natural gas pipelines across our assets within New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. The products we transport are an essential part of the economy and our daily lifestyle. As a member of the community, the safety of the public and the environment is our top priority when it comes to the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of our pipelines. These pipelines are regulated by federal, state, and local entities, which oversee operations. They often include training, regular maintenance and testing, corrosion protection, and inspections to check for and address leaks or other damage.



## How do you know where a pipeline is located?

Since most pipelines are buried underground, pipeline markers are used to indicate their approximate location along a route. Markers cannot be relied upon to show the exact position of the pipeline. Markers can be found where a pipeline intersects a street, highway, or railway. These markers display the pipeline operator name, emergency number, and the product being transported.

Pipelines are located in right-of-ways. Rights-of-way should be clear of any structures and/or trees and allow access to pipeline operators for maintenance, ground and aerial inspections, and testing.

The location of Western Midstream's transmission pipelines can be found at the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) website: **[www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov)**

## Right-of-way encroachment prevention

Pipeline rights-of-way must be kept free from structures and other obstructions to provide access to the pipeline for maintenance and in the event of an emergency. Trees or high shrubs should not be planted on the right-of-way.

Please help us prevent encroachment of rights-of-way by having the pipeline marked and the rights-of-way staked before digging, building, storing, or placing anything near the rights-of-way.





## Preventing pipeline damage - **Call 811 before you dig**

External damage caused by accidentally striking a pipeline while digging is the leading cause of pipeline accidents. Follow these steps to help prevent damage to pipelines:

- **Call 811 prior to digging.**
- **Wait the required 48 business hours notification before digging or excavating.**
- **Respect the utility markers and dig carefully.**

This free call can help protect you and others around you from potential harm which could result from damage to buried pipelines. By calling 811 prior to starting any project, you can play an essential part in keeping pipelines safe.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**





## Examples of activities that would require a call to 811

- Operation of heavy equipment or vehicles on a pipeline right-of-way.
- Construction of homes, roads, fences, drives, ditches or other facilities.
- Home improvement projects such as planting a tree, installing a pool or deck, or using an auger to dig a fence post hole.
- Agricultural activities of deep tilling, fencing, and other subsoil activities.

For additional information on 811, **visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com)**



## Look, listen and smell for signs of a natural gas pipeline release

- Discolored or dead vegetation
- Flames coming from the ground
- A cloud of vapor, fog or mist
- A pool of liquid on the ground or bubbling in a wet, flooded area
- Dirt blowing in the air
- A rainbow or sheen on the water
- An unusual hissing or roaring noise coming from a pipeline
- An unusual odor or scent of gas or petroleum

Some gases are odorless, and odorant cannot always be added.  
Use all of your senses to detect a natural gas pipeline release.

Immediately contact Western Midstream if a Western Midstream-operated pipeline suffers any level of damage, scratches, scrapes, or disturbance during any digging activity as it could impact the pipeline's future integrity.





## Emergency Guidelines for a pipeline release near a school

The following guidelines are designed to ensure your safety and the safety of those in the area if a natural gas or petroleum product pipeline leak is suspected or detected. Schools may also contact their State Fire Marshals Office, State Emergency Management Agency, and Local Emergency Planning Committee in developing emergency response plans.

### School Guidelines

If a pipeline release is witnessed or suspected:

- Leave the area immediately, moving upwind of the product release.
- Notify emergency response personnel by calling 911 and notify Western Midstream
- Turn off and abandon any motorized equipment and electronic devices.
- Do not breathe the released product or make contact with the product or pipeline components.
- Do not create any sparks with matches, lighters, switches, battery-powered devices, etc.
- Do not drive a vehicle near the area of the release.
- Do not operate any pipeline valves. Leave all valve operation to pipeline company personnel.
- Do not put out any fires that are burning near the pipeline.

### Bus Driver Guidelines

If a bus driver suspects a pipeline release, he or she should:

- Refrain from driving into the suspected release area.
- If in a suspected release area, unload the bus and leave the area immediately, moving by foot in an upwind direction.
- Do not turn any machinery on or off or use a cellular phone near a suspected release site.
- Contact appropriate parties. This may include affected schools and the school district.

## How does Western Midstream respond to an emergency?

In the event of a pipeline emergency involving one of our pipelines, Western Midstream will respond and assist in controlling the situation. Our trained personnel are expected to:

- Arrive at the site of the emergency and stop or reduce product flow to the area.
- Notify and work with the appropriate public safety officials.
- Repair the pipeline and restore the service as soon as possible.
- Thoroughly investigate the cause of the incident.



## Types of pipelines








- **Gathering pipelines** link production areas for natural gas and petroleum products to central collection points. Gathering pipelines connect to transmission pipelines for long-distance transportation of natural gas and petroleum products.
- **Transmission pipelines**, the middle of the transportation link, move large amounts of natural gas and petroleum from producing locations to logistics centers.

## Potential hazards of a pipeline release

The chart below provides general information about the products shipped in Western Midstream's pipelines.

PRODUCT	LEAK TYPE	VAPORS	HEALTH HAZARDS	FIRE HAZARDS
Natural Gas	Gas	Lighter than air	Extremely high concentrations may cause irritation or asphyxiation - possible presence of H <sub>2</sub> S, a toxic gas.	Extremely flammable and easily ignited by heat, sparks, or flames.
Liquid Petroleum	Liquid	Heavier than air	Respiratory tract irritant; may cause central nervous system effects such as drowsiness or asphyxiation.	Extremely flammable liquid or vapor; vapors are heavier than air and may accumulate in low areas and travel a considerable distance to an ignition source.

## Utilities location and coordination council uniform color code

Proposed excavation			Communication
Temporary survey			Potable water
Electric			Reclaimed water and irrigation
Gas, oil, steam, and petroleum			Sewer and drain lines



## Helpful websites

American Petroleum Institute – Pipeline Information  
[www.pipeline101.org](http://www.pipeline101.org)

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

Safe Digging – 811  
[www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com)

For additional information on Western Midstream,  
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