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Pipeline Safety

Important Safety Information About Natural Gas Pipelines Near You

Dear
City of San Jacinto

In this final email of the year, we have compiled answers to the most commonly asked questions about natural gas pipelines. As a community leader, we hope that you will circulate this information to the staff members in your department as well as the general public in your community. Thank you for taking the time to be informed about natural gas pipelines for your safety and the safety of the people living in your community.

Q1. How do I know where gas pipelines are located?

The approximate locations of major natural gas pipelines can be found online at [National Pipeline Mapping System](#) or on the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas®) [website](#). We also place [pipeline markers](#) next to our major pipelines near intersections or railway crossings.

Q2. Based on the population and location of pipelines, what is the designation for my City?

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) guidelines, the City of San Jacinto is designated as a High Consequence Area (HCA).

Q3. How can I make my City more safe and save resources by preventing pipeline incidents?

In 2011, there were 13 dig-ins in the City of San Jacinto. Public officials are encouraged to work with contractors to have a valid 811 ticket before excavation. Contractors are required by [California Law to call 811](#). However, homeowners are generally exempt.

Q4. Is my sense of smell good enough to recognize a gas leak?

Most of the time. However, there may be circumstances where you may not be able to smell the gas odorant, such as if you have a diminished sense of smell, the odorant is being masked by other odors or the odorant has been lost or reduced because of odor fade. Learn how your senses of sight and hearing can also [alert you to the presence of a gas leak](#).

Q5. What should I do when there is a gas leak?

If a gas leak is detected, don't light a match, candle, or cigarette. Don't turn electrical appliances or lights on or off. Leave the area and from a safe location call us directly at (800) 427-2200 or 9-1-1.



HCA/Non-HCA Areas

[High Consequence Areas](#)

[\(HCAs\)](#) are primarily locations that are heavily populated and also have transmission pipelines in the vicinity. Other less populated areas can also be classified as HCAs if they meet specific additional requirements such as buildings accommodating low-mobility residents or areas where people gather for a specific number of days per year.

Non-High Consequence Areas (Non-HCAs) are primarily locations that are not heavily populated and/or do not have gas transmission lines in the vicinity.



How to Recognize and Respond to a Gas Leak

Make others aware of the signs of a gas leak. [Learn how to recognize and respond](#)

[to a gas leak.](#)

Q6. If there is a major gas leak, how do I get emergency crews there as fast as possible?

Work with the 9-1-1 dispatchers in your City to understand and follow the [Pipeline Emergency Operations standard](#).

Q7. Why does SoCalGas clear trees in my City?

We must have unobstructed access along our pipeline right-of-way to maintain and operate our facilities and to quickly respond to a pipeline emergency. Furthermore, tree roots can damage our pipelines.

Q8. How should I coordinate City planning and development projects with SoCalGas if my City is growing?

Contact us and we can guide you through safe building around our major gas pipelines. We encourage you to review the information provided by the [Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance](#) (PIPA) because the decisions you make can impact the safety of the community surrounding the pipeline.

Q9. What does SoCalGas do to maintain its pipelines and protect the public?

We implemented a rigorous [Integrity Management Program](#), use the latest safety inspection tools to determine pipe condition and maintain the safety of our pipelines.

Q10. Where do I get more pipeline safety information?

Go to socalgas.com/safety. You can also contact me by email at RLane2@semprautilities.com or phone at 909-335-7660.

Thank you for your attention and I hope that these emails have raised the awareness of natural gas pipelines in your community. As required by Federal regulations, Travis Research will be contacting you in the next few weeks to conduct a telephone survey to measure the effectiveness of our communications. I would appreciate ten minutes of your time to let us know how we can improve our communications to you and your community.

Sincerely,

Randon Lane
Public Affairs Manager
Southern California Gas Company

Connect with us:  

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If you received this email from a friend or a colleague [subscribe now](#).

This public awareness communication is required by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the California Public Utilities Commission to inform fire, police and emergency officials about the presence of pipelines, damage prevention, potential hazards, emergency preparedness and how to recognize, report and respond to pipeline emergencies.

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