

2021 PIPELINE SAFETY GUIDE FOR

# PUBLIC OFFICIALS

PLEASE READ THIS BROCHURE CAREFULLY

**A well-informed public official will understand that they have a significant role in helping to prevent pipeline incidents that are caused by human error or third-party damages.**

The pipeline infrastructure is one of the safest and most economical ways to distribute natural gas and other refined products. Hazardous liquid pipelines in Indiana consist of roughly 4,000 miles. This includes gathering systems, crude oil and refined products. Natural gas transmission pipelines in Indiana make up about 5,300 miles with more pipelines being added every year. Local distribution companies (LDCs) account for approximately 40,600 miles of main pipeline and 35,200 miles of service mains.

Pipeline and local distribution companies are committed to operating their pipelines safely. These operators help ensure the safety of their pipelines by following programs such as integrity management, damage prevention and public awareness.

# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Help us improve our public safety awareness communications by completing a short survey at [INPAA.org/publicofficials-survey](https://INPAA.org/publicofficials-survey)



← SCAN ME TO VIEW SURVEY



Indiana Pipeline Awareness Association

1433 Holey Moley Way  
Greenwood, IN 46143

PRST STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
LANCASTER, PA  
PERMIT #299







# DAMAGE PREVENTION

The greatest challenge to operating a safe pipeline is preventing accidents caused by human error or third-party damages. Use of the local one call center, Indiana 811, is the best way to prevent damages and maximize the public's safety. Any excavation requires that you contact 811 either by phone or online at [indiana811.org](http://indiana811.org), at least two full working days before you dig. If the excavation is to be performed on or near a critical pipeline, then that pipeline company may send a representative to assist with locating the pipeline and to watch over the excavation to ensure that no damage is done. Farm work, sub-soiling, digging and clearing ditches can all increase the risk of pipeline damage. Land leveling puts pipelines at risk by reducing the depth where the pipeline was installed, which leaves the pipeline vulnerable to future excavations. Always dig with care and respect the marks. If damage does occur, Indiana state law requires that all excavators call the utility owner and 811 to report it. If there is a release of product, call 911 immediately. Remember, 811 before you dig isn't just a good idea, it's the law.

## LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSMISSION LINES

The Pipelines and Informed Plannings Alliance (PIPA) is a broad stakeholder initiative led and supported by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). The goal of PIPA is to reduce risks and improve the safety of affected communities and transmission pipelines, through the implementation of recommended practices related to risk-informed land use and development near transmission pipelines. The PIPA-recommended practices describe actions that can be taken by stakeholders when there are proposed changes in land use or new developments adjacent to existing transmission pipelines. PIPA has developed recommended practices to help in making decisions about what, where and how to build safely near transmission pipelines. The decisions you make can impact the well-being of the community surrounding the pipeline. For more information, please go to [phmsa.dot.gov](http://phmsa.dot.gov).

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

As a public official, you should be aware of the pipelines in your jurisdiction, and where they are located. Consider working with local emergency responders in creating evacuation plans for your community. Being prepared is integral to protecting your community in case of a pipeline emergency. A coordinated response effort between emergency responders and the gas and pipeline company operators is critical when an incident actually does occur. Protecting the lives of citizens and the environment is of the utmost importance. The Indiana Pipeline Awareness Association (INPAA), which is comprised of all the pipeline and local gas distribution companies in Indiana, sponsors emergency responder training sessions annually. These meetings help to educate emergency responders on how to respond to an incident, and what actions are necessary not only to protect the safety of the public, but the environment as well. The gas and pipeline operators also get the opportunity to meet the emergency responders in their areas, and discover what capabilities and resources they have to handle a pipeline incident.

## RECOGNIZING PIPELINE LOCATION

Pipeline markers are located in the pipeline right-of-way and indicate the approximate location, but not the depth, of a buried pipeline. Although not present in certain areas, they can be found at road crossings, fence lines, waterways, and street intersections. The markers are required to display the product transported in the line, the name of the pipeline operator, and a telephone number where the operator can be reached in the event of an emergency. It is against federal law to destroy or tamper with pipeline markers, and is punishable by imprisonment or fine. If a pipeline marker is compromised in any way, it is a good idea to call the pipeline company as soon as possible so that they may have it replaced.



## MAINTAINING SAFETY & INTEGRITY OF PIPELINES

Pipeline companies invest significant time and capital to maintain the quality and integrity of their pipeline systems. Most active pipelines are monitored 24 hours a day via manned control centers. Pipeline companies also utilize aerial surveillance and/or on-ground observers to identify potential dangers. Control center personnel continually monitor the pipeline system and access changes in pressure and flow. They notify field personnel if there is a possibility of a leak. Automatic shut-off valves are sometimes utilized to isolate a leak. Gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipeline companies have developed supplemental hazard and assessment programs known as Integrity Management Programs (IMPs). IMPs have been implemented for areas designated as "high consequence areas" (HCAs) in accordance with federal regulations. Specific information about companies' programs may be found on their websites or by contacting them directly.

## NATIONAL PIPELINE MAPPING SYSTEM

Public officials can access the National Pipeline Mapping System at [npms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://npms.phmsa.dot.gov). This geographic information database allows users to view interstate pipelines in any state to find out the name of the company that operates a particular pipeline. It is a good idea for public officials to familiarize themselves with the pipelines located in their community.

## PIPELINE LEAK RECOGNITION & RESPONSE

Natural gas is tasteless, odorless and non-toxic. Local gas distribution companies add a chemical called mercaptan to the gas that allows it to be detectable by smell. It is very important to remember that just because you can't smell natural gas doesn't mean that it is not present.

## USE YOUR SENSES

The following are a few examples of noticeable signs of a natural gas or pipeline leak:



**SEE:** A pool of liquid on the ground near a pipeline, a sheen on a pool of water, a dense white cloud or fog over a pipeline, or dead or discolored vegetation.



**SMELL:** An unusual chemical odor or a rotten egg smell.



**HEAR:** A hissing or roaring sound near a pipeline.

Local gas distribution companies run an annual radio ad campaign to promote using your senses to detect a natural gas leak. As a public official, you can help by promoting safe digging throughout your community. More information about the gas safety awareness campaign can be found at [inpaa.org/pipeline-safety](http://inpaa.org/pipeline-safety). If any of the aforementioned signs of a leak are discovered, personal safety should be everyone's first concern. Below is a list of what to do if you discover or suspect a natural gas or hazardous liquids pipeline leak.

**Evacuate:** Make sure everyone leaves the area in an upwind direction.

**Abandon** all ignition sources.

**Call 911** once you've reached a safe distance.

**Call the gas or pipeline company** after you call 911.

**It is very important that valves are not operated by anyone other than the gas or pipeline company during a natural gas or pipeline emergency.**



Indiana Pipeline Awareness Association



# KEEP YOUR COMMUNITY UP TO DATE AND IN THE KNOW WITH ALL THINGS INDIANA 811.

Contact Indiana 811 at [memberservices@usa811.org](mailto:memberservices@usa811.org) to update your account.