



## **Natural Gas Safety Public Awareness**

**About us:** The City of Milton operates an underground natural gas distribution system in Santa Rosa County, FL, North of I-10, East of Escambia River, West of SR 87 South and South of NAS Whiting. Because you work in the vicinity, we are providing this safety information as part of our Public Awareness Program. Please take the time and share it with your employees.

### **Working Together for Safety**

*Natural gas lines, exist everywhere, and are the safest mode of energy transportation. We need your help to keep it that way. In general, the City of Milton maintains all of our gas lines in our natural gas distribution area listed above. Be aware, there are other natural gas lines in the area that do not belong to the City of Milton.*

### **A SAFETY COMMITMENT**

#### How to identify pipelines

- Pipelines are usually buried underground.
- Markers are used to show the general, not the exact, location of a pipeline.
- Pipelines may not follow a straight course between markers.
- Markers do not show how deep the pipeline is buried or how many lines are in the area.
- The pipeline right-of-way is the land over the pipeline, usually 25 feet from each side of each pipeline.
- Do not plant trees or tall shrubs and do not build permanent structures on the rights-of-way, so that pipeline rights-of-way can be properly maintained.
- Do not dig on the rights-of-way, unless you have notified the One-Call Center.
- Never rely only on the presence or absence of pipeline markers. They may have been moved or removed.
- Emergency contact information is listed on each pipeline marker.
- Do not disturb the markers. Willful removal or damage of the markers is a federal offense and subject to a fine or imprisonment.

### **DETECTING A NATURAL GAS LEAK**

Natural gas is one of the safest, most reliable and environmentally friendly fuels in use today, but leaks can occur. Natural gas is a colorless, odorless fuel that is lighter than air. Because natural gas has no odor, Natural Gas of Milton adds a harmless odorant, mercaptan to create the familiar, rotten egg-like odor you associate with natural gas to help people smell gas, should a leak occur. However, odorant is added only at certain places along the pipeline, so you may not be able to detect a leak by smell.

#### **Here are other ways you can detect a leak:**

- Hissing or roaring sound caused by escaping gas.
- Dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green setting along a pipeline route.
- Blowing dirt, grass or leaves near a pipeline.
- Steady bubbling in a wet, flooded area or marshland, river, creek, or bayou.

## **Take Action for Natural Gas Safety**

Here are some keywords to help you remember what to do if a natural gas leak is suspected:

### **Leave.**

Leave the vicinity immediately *by foot*.

Do not try to find or stop the leak.

### **Don't touch.**

Avoid open flames.

*Turn off and abandon* nearby vehicles and equipment.

Do not start or restart motor vehicles

Do not turn on or off electrical equipment near the suspected leak

Do not light a match, smoke or use other sources of ignition.

Do not use radios, cell phones or flashlights(*turn off*).

### **Dial.**

From a safe location, call 911 and the City of Milton 850-983-5420. Give your name, location and description of the leak. Warn others to stay away from the area.

Do not try to put out a natural gas fire. Call 911.

Do not operate any pipeline valves. You may inadvertently route more gas to the leak.



### **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG – IT'S THE LAW** (Chapter 556, F.S.)

Before excavation of any kind takes place, State law requires that you call Sunshine State One Call toll free number 811, 800-432-4770 ([www.callsunshine.com](http://www.callsunshine.com)) so that utility lines can be professionally marked prior to "any" digging. State law requires you to call at least 2 business days or more before excavation takes place. The service is free of charge and will provide location of ALL underground utilities, not just natural gas. (There are new laws that went into effect 10/1/2010 in regards to pipelines, become aware.)

#### How One-Call Works:

- Call your state One-Call center 800-432-4770 or the North American One-Call Referral System at 811 two business days before you begin excavation.
- One-Call will notify local utilities and companies who operate underground facilities about your project.
- They will take the information from the One-Call agency to determine if your project is near their operations.
- If your project is close to underground facilities, they will send someone to clearly mark your work site.
- If you dig and come into contact with a pipeline, STOP immediately and from a safe area, contact the City of Milton (850-983-5420).
- The City will inspect and repair any damage, no matter how minor. A gouge, scrape, scratch, dent or crease to the pipe or coating could cause a safety problem over time.
- State laws require all damages to be reported to the facility owner.