Pipeline Installation & Maintenance-Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas)

- SoCalGas is the nation’s largest natural gas distribution company.
  - SoCalGas maintains safe and reliable systems using:
    - Leak detection devices and methodology
    - Pipeline patrols
    - A rigorous integrity management program in highly populated areas
  - Currently there are thousands of new pipeline installations yearly in the SoCalGas service territory

Important Safety Information About Natural Gas Pipelines

- Federal law requires all natural gas utilities, including SoCalGas, to communicate pipeline safety messages to the following audiences:
  - Emergency Officials
  - Public Officials
  - Excavators
  - Customers
  - Residents and Places of Congregation along our Transmission Pipelines and in our Distribution Service Territory

Emergency Plan Requirement

- To comply with policies and regulations, utilities are required to have an emergency plan which includes:
  - Crisis Management
  - Business Resumption Planning
  - Training and Emergency Exercises
  - Specific Requirements include:
    - Contacting local emergency response agencies
    - Maintaining a liaison with those agencies within their respective operating territories
Integrity Management Program (IMP)
High Consequence Areas (HCA)

- SoCalGas ensures the integrity of gas transmission pipelines located in High Consequence Areas (HCAs)

- HCAs are identified using GIS technology and current data sets
  - HCAs are typically highly populated areas along transmission pipelines

- Integrity Management Program (IMP) is a continuous process of assessment, evaluation and appropriate actions to improve pipeline safety. More information is available on the Southern California Gas Company website below.
  http://www.socalgas.com/safety/pipeline_imp.html

What’s New

There is additional Pipeline safety information available on the Southern California Gas Company website (http://www.socalgas.com/safety/pipeline.html). There is a newly added section titled “Gas Transmission and High Pressure Distribution Pipeline Interactive Map”. The website provides the locations of our transmission and high pressure distribution lines.

Putting Safety First

- SoCalGas regularly patrols, inspect, tests, repairs and replaces pipelines meeting or exceeding all Federal and State requirements for safe pipeline operations and maintenance
- We utilize advanced safety inspection tools and perform more rigorous inspections of pipelines in highly populated areas (IMP)
- We proactively identify and resolve potential problems before a major problem occurs

Pipeline Markers

National Pipeline Mapping System

- Most natural gas pipelines are buried underground
- Markers purposely indicate only the general, not exact, location of pipelines
- Markers also do not indicate the depth or number of pipelines in the area
• The National Pipeline Mapping System website identifies locations of major pipelines. You can access their website from the web address below:
  http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov

Factors in Determining Field Actions

• Public Safety
• Employee Safety
• Protection of Property
• Inconvenience to the Public

Emergency Information

If you smell a natural gas odor --
• REMAIN calm. DON'T panic.
• DON'T light a match, candle, or cigarette
• DON'T turn electrical appliances or lights on or off.
• Move to a safe location and call SoCalGas or 911.
• Turn off your gas meter ONLY if you smell gas or hear the hissing sound of gas escaping.
• It is important to know the exact location of the gas meter and how to shut it off in case of emergencies

Public Safety Response

• Allow ignited gas to continue burning
  • Unless it is an immediate hazard to life or property
  • Prevents gas from migrating – creating more hazards
• Gas is lighter than air and will quickly dissipate
• Gas is odorized to allow detection at 1% concentration in air
  • Explosive limit of gas in air is 4-15%
• NOTIFY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY
• Eliminate and keep all sources of ignition from the restricted area
  • Includes advising those people adjacent to the incident
• Be cognizant of static electricity and its ability to provide ignition

Site Access

• During some emergencies, access to an area may be restricted at the request of local public safety agencies
• People staffing access control points and/or roadblocks must be aware that utility crews must be permitted into damage areas for assessment and repair purposes
  • Includes utility workers who may be reporting for emergency duty in a private vehicle.

General Causes of Pipeline Damage

• Third-Party Damage
• Corrosion
• Earthquakes
• Material and Weld Defects
• Vandalism

Damage to Gas Pipelines

• Digging or demolition near buried pipelines is the number one cause of pipeline damage
  • Costly fines and repairs
  • Serious injury to bystanders
  • Gas service disruptions
  • Delays
• Even a slight gouge, scrape or dent to a pipeline or coating may cause a dangerous break or leak in the future.
• If you cause any damage to a pipeline, you should notify SoCalGas immediately by calling 1-800-427-2200.
• Pipelines may be located anywhere
• Important to know where they are buried before digging for any reason, such as:
  • Planting trees
  • Installing fences
  • Grading a development
  • Tilling farmland

Underground Service Alert (USA)

Call 8-1-1 at least two workdays before you start excavating
• USA will coordinate with SoCalGas and other utilities to mark the location of buried facilities
• Service is free of charge
• Use only hand-digging tools within 24 inches of marked gas lines
Detecting a Natural Gas Leak

- Any of the following signs may indicate the presence of a gas leak:
  - A damaged connection to a gas appliance
  - A hissing, whistling or roaring sound near a gas appliance or pipeline
  - Dead or dying vegetation, in an otherwise moist area, over or near pipeline areas
  - A fire or explosion near a pipeline
  - Dirt or water being thrown in the air
  - Exposed pipeline after an earthquake, fire, flood or other disaster

- The distinctive odor of natural gas:
  - Do not use sense of smell alone to detect a gas leak.
  - Some persons may not be able to smell the odor due to a diminished sense of smell
  - Or the odor could become masked by other odors in the area
  - Also, certain conditions such as odor fade (loss of odorant) may cause the odor to diminish so that it is not detectable.

Universal Tactics at Natural Gas Releases

- Approach cautiously and stay upwind, if possible
- Position apparatus out of harms way (avoid front of building or over manhole covers)
- Establish an effective and safe perimeter
- Call SoCalGas immediately
- Evacuate the public
  - 150’-300’ or greater if necessary
- Control ignition sources
- Control the source, if it can be done safely at a service meter only
- Monitor the atmosphere, using multiple monitors when possible

Emergency Information

- SoCalGas is dedicated to communicating and restoring service as quickly and safely as possible.
  - We have agreements with out-of-town utility crews and will bring in extra assistance if needed.
  - Customer service representatives are on-call during major emergencies of extended duration.
• Automated voice response system allows us to handle thousands of calls simultaneously.
• Personnel from corporate communications are available seven days a week to provide customers, the media and public officials with the latest information.

Contact Number

(800) 325-4070 is the toll free telephone number provided to **Police and Fire Departments** to report incidents that appear to involve natural gas.

Additional Information

• The National Association of State Fire Marshal’s website can be accessed to obtain emergency training material on pipeline emergencies.


• Videos available upon request:
  
  • *Natural Gas Recognizing and Avoiding Hazards Vol. II*
  
  • *A Training Tool for Emergency Responders*

• For information on this material, as well as the contact information for the Gas Company representatives in your area, please call:

**Tillman Puckett**  
Southern California Gas Company  
Emergency Services Program Manager  
(213) 244-5481 Office  
(310) 863-5877 Cell