

DRAFT

PIPELINE SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Facilities like yours commonly have an emergency plan in place for many potentially dangerous situations including fire, earthquakes, hazardous weather events, and even acts or threats of violence on your property. Although rare, pipelines carrying natural gas or petroleum products can rupture, or explode and catch fire ~~emergencies, such have occurred~~ threatening the safety of ~~your facility~~ nearby homes and facilities. If your facility is located near a major gas or petroleum pipeline, ~~it~~ is vital that your safety plan informs those working for you (staff) about pipeline safety, ~~what emergency procedures to take if there is a pipeline rupture, explosion or fire.~~

To determine where pipelines carrying petroleum liquids or a natural gas transmission pipelines exist, use the following link: <https://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov/PublicViewer/>. Locate pipeline markers on or near your location. If a major natural gas or petroleum pipeline is within ~~xxx~~660 feet of your facility your emergency preparedness plan should address pipelines incidents.

What to include in your Emergency Plan

- ~~Write down~~ The name of the operator, the name of the product transported and the operator's emergency contact number. (All of this information is printed on the pipeline) marker.

~~Conduct drills or tabletop exercises to simulate and test your emergency response procedures.~~

~~Your emergency plan should include safe practices that include:~~

- Location of petroleum or natural gas transmission pipelines close to your facility
- The reference information obtained from pipeline markers
- ~~Understanding~~ The warning signs of a pipeline leak
- Who to notify if you suspect a pipeline leak (Q – Is there anyone besides 911? The pipeline operator)
- Preparing safe responses to a pipeline leak, how you would either Shelter-in-Place or safely evacuate your facility depending on what you are instructed to do by the Fire Department.
 - If you are instructed to Shelter-in-place know how to (describe)
 - If you are instructed to evacuate your facility, know what routes you can take to avoid the pipeline.

~~Conduct drills or tabletop exercises to simulate and test your emergency response procedures.~~

Comment [RWM1]: I think this should say "Pipeline operator". Laypersons in the public will not understand who we mean by "Operator". It should also say "Operator(s)" as it is possible for them to have multiple pipelines near their facility.

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How to recognize a pipeline leak:

SIGHT:

- A pool of liquid on the ground near a buried pipeline
- Dirt being blown into the air
- Water bubbling or being blown into the air
- Fire or explosion near a pipeline

SOUND:

- Hissing or roaring sound

SMELL:

- Petroleum scent or other unusual odors such as sulfur (rotten eggs) or mildly fragrant odor

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Call 9-1-1 immediately if you suspect a leak coming from a pipeline. Wait until the fire department responds to determine the appropriate protective actions to take.

[If you have questions about this information, please contact Community Awareness Emergency Response at \(925\) 313-9296.](#)

Comment [RWM2]: Should we also include a blurb about calling USA/811 to have pipes located and marked before undertaking any construction? That is the most common reason for a breach or rupture.