**Public Awareness**

**CITY OF HEMPHILL NATURAL GAS PIPELINE**

The United States relies on natural gas for nearly one-fourth of its energy. Natural gas is clean, convenient, and efficient, which makes it the country's most popular home heating fuel. Each day, underground pipelines carry natural gas safely and efficiently to millions of homes and businesses across the United States. Natural gas is used to heat homes and businesses, heat water, cook meals, fuels for vehicles electric power generation, and for many industrial processes. In our community, underground pipelines provide natural gas service to homes, businesses, schools and industries. The City of Hemphill operates a safe and efficient pipeline distribution network of stations, mains, services and meters. Natural gas is purchased by the City from the Tennessee Gas Pipeline and delivered to the City gate station located on FM 944 in Sabine County. It is then distributed to pressure regulating stations that are strategically located on the City’s Gas system through main and service lines to your gas meter and into your home or business.

**Pipeline Purpose and Reliability**

The pipeline transportation system in the United States is one of the safest and most efficient means of transporting energy products. The National Transportation Safety board has found that pipelines provide the highest level of public safety as compared to other transportation modes. Pipelines have fewer accidents causing personal injury than any other form of transportation. In addition, pipeline operators are extensively regulated by Federal and State regulations with regard to design, construction, operation and maintenance.

Safety is the number one priority of America's natural gas industry. At the City of Hemphill, our main goal is to deliver natural gas reliably and safely to you, our customer. In doing so, we want you to know what to do if you ever smell gas or if a natural gas pipeline emergency occurs where you live or work.

**Hazard Awareness and Prevention Measures**

Like all forms of energy, natural gas must be handled properly. A gas leak caused by damage to a pipeline may pose a hazard and has the potential to ignite. The City of Hemphill works diligently to ensure pipeline safety through a variety of measures including inspection programs and workforce qualifications, public awareness campaigns, safe design and construction practices, and Texas Railroad Commission safety evaluations.

The City of Hemphill maintains an ongoing relationship with local emergency response officials, in order to prepare for and respond to any pipeline emergency. In an emergency call the City of Hemphill at (409)787-2251 or 911.

**Leak Recognition and Response**

**1.** Potential hazards of products transported

* Our Pipeline carries gaseous material under high pressure
* Natural gas is colorless and lighter than air
* Natural gas is flammable
* Any pipeline leak can be potentially hazardous

**2.** How to recognize a pipeline leak. **Sight-Smell-Sound**

* **Sight**-Look for dirt being blown in the air, mist, fog, bubbling in standing water, fire coming from the ground or dead or dying vegetation.
* **Sound**-Listen for any unusual noise like a roaring, blowing, hissing or whistling sound.
* **Smell-**Notice any unusual odor. Natural gas is odorless. The City of Hemphill adds an odorant **to** natural gas to give it a noticeable odor.

**3.** Response to a pipeline leak

**If you detect a gas leak:**

* Turn off and abandon any motorized equipment you may be operating.
* If in a building, ventilate by opening doors and windows, exit the building immediately.
* Move to a safe environment immediately.
* Call City of Hemphill immediately at (409)787-2251 (use a neighbor's telephone) or if after business hours call the Sabine County SHeiffs Office at (409)787-2266. In the event of fire or explosion call 911. Do not assume someone else will report condition.
* Provide exact location, including any cross streets
* Avoid flames and operating electrical appliances and/or equipment. Do not smoke or light matches.
* Do not use telephones including cell, flashlights or other items that can produce a spark.
* Warn others to stay away.
* Do not attempt to correct the problem.

**Damage Prevention**

The greatest risk to underground natural gas pipelines is the accidental damage during excavation. Even minor damage such as a dent, scrape, crease or gouge to a pipeline coating may cause a leak or failure. Call Before You Dig. The law requires a 72 hour notice before you dig excluding weekends and holidays. It's the law!

http://fhnga.com/core/fileparse.php/96405/urlt/images/pups.gif

Notify DIG TESS by calling 811. It's a free call! DIG TESS will let us know who you are and where you intend to dig.