



NATURAL GAS PIPELINES

SAFETY GUIDE



PARTNERS IN PIPELINE SAFETY

Greer Commission of Public Works is one of several municipally-owned and operated utilities in the State of South Carolina. It is governed by three elected Commissioners and managed by an appointed General Manager. Greer Commission of Public Works owns and operates hundreds of miles of natural gas transmission and distribution pipelines. This vast network of underground pipelines is used to transport clean and efficient natural gas energy to our customers. Many pipelines are located in residential areas and business districts. The transmission and distribution pipelines, which are buried underground, operate at various pressures. Greer Commission of Public Works has an excellent reputation for operating these pipelines in a safe, efficient and environmentally responsible manner – but pipeline safety is everyone’s responsibility. Whether you are a homeowner or business owner with a pipeline crossing your property, or a construction company working on a project in the vicinity of a pipeline, knowing the basics about pipeline safety will help you avoid unnecessary damage to the pipeline, property damage and personal injury.

Greer Commission of Public Works natural gas transmission pipeline system contains segments recognized as High Consequence Areas (HCA). HCA’s are identified primarily by population density. All information regarding HCA’s can be viewed at Greer Commission of Public Works Office located at 301 McCall St., Greer, SC 29652.

HOW TO KNOW IF A PIPELINE IS NEAR

Greer Commission of Public Works natural gas main lines are designated with yellow markers and signs, which stand about 4 feet high. You will see the markers where pipelines cross roadways and periodically along the rest of the route. These signs provide a number to reach Greer Commission of Public Works anytime at: **(864) 848-5500**. Careless digging during construction or landscaping work is what typically causes damage to pipelines. Such damage does not necessarily cause an immediate gas leak, but may result in a leak at a later time. To prevent damage to Greer Commission of Public Works natural gas pipelines, please call the PUPS (Palmetto Utility Protection Service) One-Call Service at **811** at least 72 hours before starting any type of digging, grading or similar activity. Personnel will come out to the site to locate all utility services operated by Greer Commission of Public Works.

HOW TO IDENTIFY A PIPELINE LEAK

Signs of a leak along the right-of-way include dead or discolored vegetation, odor similar to that of rotten eggs, hissing or roaring sound, dirt blowing up in the air, or water bubbling from the ground.

WHAT TO DO IF A LEAK IS DETECTED OR SUSPECTED

If you notice any of these conditions, leave the area immediately and warn others to keep away. Do not use telephones or electronic devices in areas where gas is present. Contact your local fire department (**911**) and Greer Commission of Public Works at **(864) 848-5500**. Shut off any machinery or equipment and avoid creating sparks. Do not strike a match, start an engine or turn on or off an electrical switch in the area. Do not try to extinguish a natural gas fire and do not try to operate pipeline valves.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT LIVING OR WORKING NEAR NATURAL GAS PIPELINES

- It is illegal to remove or damage Greer Commission of Public Works pipeline markers or signs.
- No permanent structures (homes, businesses, storage buildings, sheds, deer stands, etc.) or bodies of water (pools, ponds, and lakes) may be built over a pipeline or service.
- Installation of fences and other utility lines must be installed with adequate distance from natural gas pipelines. Please contact the Greer Commission of Public Works at **(864) 848-5500** prior to construction for distance information. Please call the PUPS (Palmetto Utility Protection Service) One-Call Service at **811** at least 72 hours before starting any type of digging, grading or similar activity.

No trees or shrubbery may be planted directly over natural gas pipelines and service lines. Building materials such as lumber, rocks, or dirt may not be stored directly over natural gas pipelines. Changing ground elevation by adding or removing soil should not be performed until Greer Commission of Public Works **(864-848-5500)** and PUPS **(811)** have been contacted.