



**SIGEL GAS**

# **Public Safety Brochure**

for our Sigel Gas LLC customers

## **Pipelines deliver our nation's energy**

Many people do not realize the importance of our nation's natural gas pipeline system. Each day the network of pipelines carries natural gas from supply areas to customer's homes, businesses, and factories across the country.

The natural gas industry has a proven record of safety. You can learn more by visiting the Web site of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Office of Pipeline Safety at [www.phmsa.dot.gov](http://www.phmsa.dot.gov). PHMSA is the federal agency that regulates safety aspects of the gas industry.

## **Keeping the public and our pipelines safe is our top priority!**

Our office and call center operate 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. We regularly patrol our pipeline rights of way and conduct regular inspections on our system. Our operation employees receive regular training and are qualified under US DOT standards for natural gas pipeline operators.

Employees are on-call at all times to respond to any contingency. In addition, we work with emergency responders to make them aware of our pipelines and how to respond in an emergency. Sigel Gas LLC can be reached at (814) 275-3390

Sigel Gas LLC - 1990 Packing Road New Bethlehem, PA 16242 (814) 275-3390/[www.sigel-gas.com](http://www.sigel-gas.com)/[info@sigel-gas.com](mailto:info@sigel-gas.com)

# Call the PA One Call System at 811 at least 3 business days before you dig – It's the law. 811 or (800) 242-1776 – [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com)

## Natural Gas lines – what is your responsibility?

- ❖ Natural Gas is transported from wells through pipelines called transmission lines into mains into service lines to the gas meter. Sigel Gas owns and maintains the main supply lines to the meter. However the property owner is responsible for repairing or replacing all house lines.
- ❖ If buried piping isn't maintained, it might become subject to leakage over time. For your safety, we inspect pipelines for leaks on a regular basis. If our inspection detects a problem in any portion of the piping, we may interrupt your service until it has been repaired. Any inspection, installation, repair or replacement of natural gas lines or appliances that you own should be performed by a licensed contractor or plumber who is certified according to the standards approved by the US Dept of Transportation.



Before you dig or excavate, call 8-1-1 or  
CALL your local One-Call System

To find who is operating pipelines in your area go to:  
[www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov)

## Pipeline Rights of Way help protect your safety

- ❖ A pipeline right of way is the strip of land over and around a pipeline. Right of ways are kept clear of obstructions to enable the gas company to safely operate.
- ❖ A right of way is an agreement between the gas company and the property owner. This agreement provides the gas company with access to enable us to operate, test, inspect, maintain, and protect our pipelines. It's important that property owners not install any structure, store anything that could be an obstruction, or plant trees, or shrubs along the right of way. Normal gardening and agricultural activities are generally acceptable. You should never dig or construct anything in the area without first having the gas company mark the pipeline and explain the company's construction guidelines.
- ❖ Natural gas pipelines are sometimes identified by markers placed at intervals along the right of way. Markers display 24 hour emergency contact phone numbers. They are generally placed wherever needed to indicate the presence of a pipeline, such as at a road crossing, stream crossing, or as visual reference.
- ❖ While the markers are very helpful to indicate the general location of pipelines in the area, they may not identify the number of pipelines, nor the exact location. That's why you should not rely solely on the presence or absence of a pipeline marker.



## Use your senses to detect a natural gas leak

Natural gas pipelines have a proven safety record. Sometimes, however pipeline failure can occur. Hazards associated with a pipeline failure may include: blowing gas, line rupture, fire, explosion, or if gas is present in a confined area, asphyxiation.

Damage by an outside force, often someone digging into a pipeline, is the largest single cause of failure. Incidents may occur due to corrosion, material failure, or other causes.

### **Look for:**

- ❖ Dirt being blown or appearing to be thrown in the air
- ❖ Water bubbling or blown into the air at a pond, creek, river, or wet area
- ❖ Fire coming from the ground or appearing to burn above the ground
- ❖ Dead or Dying vegetation on or near a pipeline right of way
- ❖ Dry or frozen spot on the right of way

### **Listen for:**

- ❖ Hissing, blowing, roaring sound

### **Smell for:**

- ❖ Rotten egg or petroleum odor

## SEWAGE SYSTEM BLOCKAGE

A blocked sewer line may be the result of another utility line (i. e. gas, electric, telecommunications, water) that has been bored through the sewer line. Attempting to clear this type of blockage can result in a serious accident, involving loss of life, injuries, and significant property damage. Should this issue arise, please call a certified plumber to receive assistance and notify the Sigel Gas of the situation.

## Be Alert to Suspicious Activity:

Since you live and work in a area near our pipeline system, we encourage you to help us keep our pipelines safe. Besides being aware of signs of a gas leak or digging alone right of ways, please be alert to activity around our pipelines. Our employees and contractors carry identification and will gladly show it upon request. If you are suspicious or have questions, contact us immediately at (814)275-3390. If you feel there might be a problem, call your local police.

## **If you suspect a gas leak....**

### **Do:**

- ❖ Leave the area immediately.
- ❖ Turn off and abandon any motorized equipment you might be using.
- ❖ Warn others to stay away from the area.
- ❖ From a safe distance, call your community's emergency responders at 911 and Sigel Gas company at (814) 275-3390
- ❖ Wait for the fire department or our service crew to check the situation and let you know when it is safe to return

### **Do not:**

- ❖ Use open flame or anything that would spark ignition, such as cell phones, flashlights, motor vehicles, power tools, etc.
- ❖ Attempt to operate pipeline valves
- ❖ Close windows or doors. **Leave them open.**
- ❖ Turn lights on or off or use the garage door opener.

## SIGNS OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

When a natural gas appliance is properly operating, complete combustion safely burns the gas. Complete combustion produces carbon dioxide and water vapor, non-hazardous by-products. However, incomplete combustion occurs when there is insufficient air available for complete burning of the fuel (natural gas) which produces carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, poisonous gas and is undetected to the human senses. The initial symptoms of low to moderate CO poisoning are similar to the flu. They include:

Headache  
Fatigue  
Dizziness  
Nausea  
Shortness of breath

Higher levels of CO poisoning include:

Vomiting  
Mental confusion  
Loss of muscular coordination  
Too much inhaled CO can be fatal

### **How to prevent CO poisoning:**

Appliances should be installed and operated according to the manufacturer's instructions. At the beginning of every heating season, have your heating system professionally inspected and serviced by a licensed plumber. Install carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home.

If any member of your household is experiencing symptoms of CO poisoning, IMMEDIATELY get them out of the house and seek medical attention.

### **Contractors and excavators:**

Pipeline damage is frequently caused by contractors doing excavation . Don't take chances! Dig-ins may result in loss of life, personal injury, property damage, or liability for costly repairs. **Call the PA One Call system at 811 in advance of any excavation, or if you are planning to cross pipeline rights of way with heavy equipment.**

### **If you hit a pipeline.....**

•If you expose, hit, or touch a pipeline or other natural gas equipment, **call 911 and Sigel Gas at (814) 275-3390 immediately.** Even if it looks like a minor dent, a scrape, or scratch, it may cause a safety problem in the future. It's important we inspect any potential damage.

### **Emergency responders and public safety officials:**

As a public utility, we consider emergency responders as part of our safety team. It's important for fire and police officials to be familiar with the location of our pipelines in their area.

### **Emergency action procedures for Public Safety Officials:**

If you are a public safety official, you know to take whatever steps you deem necessary to safeguard the public in the event of a pipeline emergency. The following suggestions are offered as a guide:

- ❖ Secure the area around the leak to a safe distance. This could include the evacuation of people from homes, businesses, schools, and other locations, the erection of barricades to control access to the emergency site and similar precautions.
- ❖ If the pipeline leak is not burning, take steps to prevent ignition. This could include prohibiting smoking, rerouting traffic, and shutting off the electricity and residential gas supply.
- ❖ If the pipeline leak is burning, try to prevent the spread of fire but do not attempt to extinguish it. Burning petroleum products will not explode. If the fire is extinguished, gas or vapor will collect and could explode when reignited by secondary fires.
- ❖ Contact the pipeline company as quickly as possible. Pipeline marker signs show the pipeline company's name, emergency telephone number and pipeline contents.

### **What Sigel Gas LLC will do:**

In the event of a pipeline emergency, our company will work to control the situation immediately by taking these actions:

- ❖ Evacuate and isolate the area
- ❖ Notify appropriate public safety officials and work with them during the emergency
- ❖ Locate the site of the emergency and stop or reduce gas flow to the affected area.
- ❖ Repair the equipment and restore service to customers
- ❖ Investigate the cause of the incident

## **If an EMERGENCY, please contact us at our 24-Hour Emergency Phone Number: (814)275-3390**

\*\*\*\*\*Allow gas company employees access to the area and work with them to control the emergency\*\*\*\*\*

### **Do:**

- If the gas lines in your home or on your property have been damaged or are leaking, or if you notice damage to a natural gas pipeline, call 911
- Report the type (leak, rupture, fire, other) and location of the emergency to Sigel Gas immediately
- Secure a safety zone around the site and control access. This might include evacuating people within the safety zone
- Be aware of wind direction and possible flammable sources
- Preserve the area for accident investigation

### **Do not:**

- If gas is not burning, avoid anything that could ignite it.
- If gas is burning, control secondary fires, but do not attempt to put out a pipeline fire unless directed by gas company personnel
- Do not attempt to operate pipeline valves.

**Sigel Gas values your feedback! Please take a moment and complete our online survey at <http://sigel-gas.com/sigel-gas-company-online-survey.php>**