

# RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF POSSIBLE GAS PIPELINE HAZARDS AND EMERGENCIES

-  **HISSING OR BLOWING SOUND**
-  **DIRT BEING BLOWN INTO THE AIR**
-  **FIRE AT OR NEAR EXPOSED PIPING**
-  **FIRE APPARENTLY EMANATING FROM THE GROUND**
-  **WATER BLOWING INTO THE AIR AT A POND, CREEK OR RIVER**
-  **BUBBLING ACTION OUTSIDE WATER SURFACE**
-  **VEGETATION DEAD OR BROWN**
-  **"ROTTEN EGG" ODOR**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:**  
[www.rcid.org](http://www.rcid.org)  
 Select the **UTILITIES DIVISION**.

REEDY CREEK ENERGY SERVICES  
 5300 NORTH CAST DRIVE  
 P.O. BOX 10000  
 LAKE BUENA VISTA, FL. 32830-1000

# NATURAL GAS PIPELINE SAFETY

Learn how to detect, prevent and address potential natural gas pipeline-related emergencies.



CENTRAL FLORIDA TOURISM  
 OVERSIGHT  
**DISTRICT**



Central Florida Tourism Oversight District is the regulating authority for the cities of Lake Buena Vista and Bay Lake. It provides, supervises and operates public services, such as utilities, drainage, waste collection, fire protection, flood control, pest management, land use planning and enforcement of building codes.

CFTOD is committed to safeguarding the health, safety and well-being of the public, our customers, employees and the environment. The CFTOD Emergency Services Department is the first responder when calls to 911 are received, and work very closely with the Reedy Creek Energy Services Natural Gas Department to resolve any emergencies immediately.

This brochure provides detailed information about natural gas pipeline safety, damage prevention, and details related to detecting potential pipeline-related emergencies.

### **SAFETY FROM DESIGN TO DELIVERY:**

Pipeline safety starts long before natural gas actually begins flowing through our pipes. It begins during the design phase, when we apply strict industry standards, research-based company policies and regulatory mandates to every aspect of a facility's development, from basic design to selection of materials, construction plans, operational plans and monitoring requirements. **THE NATURAL GAS PIPELINE INDUSTRY SPENDS MILLIONS OF DOLLARS EACH YEAR ON RESEARCH AND IMPROVING PIPELINE SAFETY.**

### **SAFETY AROUND THE CLOCK:**

Our **Energy Control Center** is staffed, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This team makes sure a rapid response group is available to assist with any potential issues. They can be reached at:

**ROUTINE: (407) 824-4990    EMERGENCY: (407) 824-4185**

### **EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS:**

Fire Dept	911
Energy Control Center	(407) 824-4185
Excavation Permits	(407) 560-6539
Gas Department	(407) 560-6050

# NATURAL GAS FACTS

## What is Natural Gas?

Natural gas is a nontoxic, colorless fuel, about one third lighter than air and has no smell in its natural state. Natural gas has a limited flammability range and a high ignition point. When mixed with air in the right proportion and ignited by a spark or flame, natural gas will burn or explode. Before natural gas enters the gas distribution system an odorant is added to make natural gas detectable to the sense of smell.

## How is Natural Gas Transported?

Gas is distributed in both coated steel and plastic pipelines. Steel natural gas lines may have pressures from 35 pounds per square inch to over 500 pounds per square inch and can be up to 24 inches in diameter. Plastic natural gas lines may have pressures up to 60 pounds per square inch (Intermediate High Pressure) and can be up to 8 inches in diameter. Plastic natural gas lines will have a coated copper wire running parallel to the natural gas line. This wire is for locating purposes.

**ANYTIME THE PIPE, PIPE COATING OR LOCATING WIRE IS DAMAGED, IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE ENERGY CONTROL CENTER AT:**

**ROUTINE: (407) 824-4990    EMERGENCY: (407) 824-4185**

## Where are Pipelines Located?

Most natural gas distribution lines are not marked, except for temporary markings after someone requests an excavation permit. Pipeline markers indicate the approximate location of the high pressure pipelines and some larger Intermediate High Pressure lines in rural locations. Pipeline markers bear the company name and emergency telephone number. Natural gas distribution mains are buried underground with service laterals installed for industrial, commercial and residential customers.

## IF A PIPELINE IS DISTURBED:

If a pipeline is hit or touched while digging, *contact the Energy Control Center immediately at:* **ROUTINE: (407) 824-4990 / EMERGENCY: (407) 824-4185**

## How Safe is Natural Gas?

Natural gas has an excellent safety record and gas emergencies are not common; however, you should know how to recognize and respond to potential emergencies.

## Know the "Rotten Egg" smell:

**IT SMELLS BAD, BUT THAT'S GOOD.**

That unusual smell is a harmless chemical that is added to natural gas so even the smallest leak is easy to detect. The odorant is added as a safety precaution because natural gas has no odor of its own.

**IF YOU SMELL NATURAL GAS...**

**DO NOT** light a flame, **DO NOT** use your telephone, and **DO NOT** use light switches or electrically operated equipment. Immediately evacuate all persons from your residence/building, immediately call **911** and the **ENERGY CONTROL CENTER EMERGENCY LINE AT: (407) 824-4185.**

## In the event of a fire:

1. Evacuate and prevent others from entering.
2. **DO NOT** attempt to put out flames. Putting out a gas fire without stopping the supply of gas could cause a more serious danger.
3. Call **911**.

## Don't Guess, Call Before Digging:

Never guess about where the pipeline is located.

**CONTACT THE EXCAVATION DIG PERMIT DEPARTMENT AT PHONE: (407) 560-6539/FAX: (407) 560-6540** at least 72 hours before beginning a project.