

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MANAGE HIGH ENERGY BILLS?

- Contact us about setting up a budget billing plan to even out your monthly payments.
- Install a programmable thermostat to manage your heating and cooling systems efficiently.
- Lower your thermostat on your water heater to 120°F.
- Look for the ENERGY STAR label on light bulbs, home appliances, electronics, and other products. ENERGY STAR products meet strict efficiency guidelines set by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Energy.

For more energy-saving ideas visit [www.EnergySavers.gov](http://www.EnergySavers.gov)

## NATURAL GAS IS SAFE

Natural gas pipelines are among the safest fuel transportation systems in the world. With 200,000 miles of natural gas pipelines nationwide, natural gas provides 24% of all energy needs in the United States. Made almost entirely of high-grade coated steel, natural gas pipelines are tested, monitored, and maintained using the latest technology 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Many systems contain meters designed to detect changes in pressure, and many include automatic shut off valves that isolate leaks. In addition, SNG adds a harmless product called Mercaptin to our gas that smells like rotten eggs.

## WILL THERE BE ENOUGH NATURAL GAS TO SATISFY DEMAND?

98.5% of the natural gas we use in the United States comes from North America, and supplies are abundant. Gas utilities serve more than 68 million residential customers in addition to more than 5 million commercial enterprises, through more than 1.2 million miles of safe, efficient underground pipes -- an energy delivery system that is the envy of the world.

## PURPOSE & RELIABILITY

Summit Natural Gas of Maine plans to install more than 1,500 miles of natural gas infrastructure in the Kennebec Valley and beyond; the size and scope of our project has never been done before in Maine. The purpose of this pipeline is to bring natural gas to as many people and businesses as possible.

Summit Natural Gas works diligently to ensure pipeline safety through a variety of measures including inspection programs, public education, pipeline markers, facility mapping, surveys, patrolling, pressure monitoring, odorization, and liaison with public officials.

## IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT NATURAL GAS:

- Natural gas is almost 40% lighter than air, so it rises and quickly spreads out in open areas. In an enclosed room or building, natural gas first displaces air at ceiling level, then moves down toward the floor.
- Natural gas is not toxic, however, large concentrations of natural gas will displace the air in enclosed spaces and suffocation can occur.
- Natural gas is colorless, tasteless, and odorless, so a “rotten egg” odor is added for safety before it reaches your home.
- Natural gas cannot burn by itself. In order for natural gas to burn it must be mixed with air. It must have an ignition source such as a pilot light, a lighted match, or an electric arc from a light switch, motor, doorbell, or telephone.
- Burning natural gas will not explode. If natural gas does ignite, *let it burn*, and do not attempt to put out the flame.
- For your safety, our employees are trained to monitor and inspect our pipeline system and respond quickly to any Natural Gas emergency.

## OUR PROMISE TO YOU

If you are ever dissatisfied with your services at Summit Natural Gas a representative will be happy to work with you on any issues that you may have with the company. [Please call us at 800-909-7642.](tel:800-909-7642)

## HOW TO GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For an overview of Summit Natural Gas, go to our website at [www.SummitNaturalGasMaine.com](http://www.SummitNaturalGasMaine.com)



# MAINE NATURAL GAS SAFETY



## SAFETY

A majority of gas pipeline leaks occur as a result of individuals digging on their own property. State law requires all excavators and private citizens to contact an 811 Center prior to any excavation activities. Once 811 is called, Summit Natural Gas will mark all gas pipelines free of charge. Simply call [811](tel:811) or [888-DIG-SAFE](tel:888-DIG-SAFE) to request marking the pipelines on your property. Stay safe, call before you dig!

24 HOUR EMERGENCY LINE  
**888-DIG-SAFE**



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.



## PIPELINE MARKERS

Pipeline markers are used to show the approximate location of natural gas pipelines running throughout a specific area. These above ground markers are not only useful to help locate pipelines, they also contain information on them such as the name of the operating company, contact information, and the type of material running through the pipeline.

Pipeline markers play an important role in the safety of pipelines; any attempt to remove, tamper, hide, deface, or destroy a pipeline marker is a Federal crime

## UNIFORM COLOR CODE

For marking underground utility lines

WHITE	Proposed Excavation
PINK	Temporary Survey Markings
RED	Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit & Lighting Cables
YELLOW	Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials
ORANGE	Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit
BLUE	Potable Water
PURPLE	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation & Slurry Lines
GREEN	Sewers & Drain Lines

## IF DAMAGE OCCURS

If a pipeline is damaged, no matter how minor the damage appears, please notify us immediately at **800-909-7642**. We must evaluate the damage, and make any necessary repairs to ensure your safety.

## IN THE EVENT OF A NATURAL GAS LEAK, HERE ARE SOME HAZARDS YOU NEED TO BE AWARE OF:

- Gas leaks are highly flammable and easily ignitable.
- Gas leaks displace oxygen and cause asphyxiation.
- Natural gas fires may produce corrosive vapors and cause irritation.
- Vapors may cause dizziness.

If you suspect a natural gas leak, call us at **800-909-7642** from your neighbor's house or another location away from the leak.

## HOW TO RECOGNIZE A LEAK

A majority of gas pipeline leaks occur as a result of individuals digging on their own property. State law requires all excavators and private citizens to contact an 811 center prior to any excavation activities. Once 811 is called, Summit Natural Gas will mark all gas pipelines free of charge.

Although natural gas pipelines have an unparalleled safety record, occasionally leaks do occur.

### Here are some signs of a natural gas leak:

- An odor like rotten eggs
- Roaring sound like an engine
- White vapor that looks like smoke
- A hissing or whistling noise
- Fire coming out of a hole or on top of the ground
- Dirt blowing from a hole in the ground
- An area of frozen ground in the summer
- Patches of dead vegetation or grass

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT A LEAK:

- Leave immediately.
- Warn others to stay away from the area.
- Call Summit at **800-909-7642** and **911** from a safe location away from the gas leak.

## WHAT NOT TO DO:

- Use a lighter, match or candles, open flames, or operate anything that could cause a spark (such as cell phones, lights, appliances, flashlights, garage door opener, or power tools).
- Open exterior windows or doors in an attempt to ventilate.
- Try to find the leak yourself or operate any pipeline valves.

## PREVENTION

Summit Natural Gas of Maine works with local police, fire, and emergency response teams to ensure the continued safety of your community. This includes: conducting training seminars, meeting with local officials, and reviewing emergency response plans.

## PIPELINE OPERATORS ACTIONS DURING AN EMERGENCY

Pipeline accidents are rare, however, if one does occur, pipeline operators have a number of procedures and rules in place to address the situation. Pipeline technicians will take actions such as closing and opening valves, shutting off gas service, and conducting emergency operations with the intent of mitigating the event. In addition, pipeline operators have specialized tools and knowledge that allow them to quickly and efficiently stop leaks and ruptures.

## HIGH CONSEQUENCE AREAS

High Consequence Areas (HCA) are areas that serve as meeting or gathering places during either everyday life, or serve as gathering places during emergencies such as churches, schools or auditoriums. These locations have additional hazard assessments and have special prevention programs known as Integrity Management Plans. In order to establish if your community has an HCA, contact SNGM for further information.

## BUILDING OR DIGGING ON A RIGHT-OF-WAY

Pipeline right of ways must not have obstructions or any structures that prevent access to the pipeline for routine maintenance or for an emergency. In the event that a pipeline does cross your property, refrain from building, digging, or planting anything that can impair access to the pipeline.

## DOING YOUR PART

Natural gas pipelines are a part of the national infrastructure that impact millions of people every single day. As a matter of National Security, it is important that any suspicious activity involving pipelines is immediately reported to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.