

# Pipelines Deliver Natural Gas Safely

Learn how to prevent damage, recognize potential problems

Rock Energy Cooperative operates about 180 miles of natural gas main in northern Illinois with more than 8,300 natural gas services.

Pipelines are the safest and most economical method of transporting natural gas, according to the National Transportation Safety Board. Federal pipeline safety code mandates that Rock Energy and other distribution systems comply with tough requirements for design, construction, testing, inspection, operation, and maintenance from the point of connection to the meter on your house. Natural gas is completely safe when used properly. The following information will help you and your families stay safe around natural gas.

## How can I recognize a natural gas leak?

- **BY SMELL:** Natural gas is colorless and odorless, but gas providers add a chemical that makes it smell like rotten eggs so any leaks can be easily detected. It is extremely important that you call us as soon as you smell the gas and not wait several hours or days before calling.
- **BY SOUND:** A hissing or roaring sound coming from a natural gas line might be a sign of a leak.
- **BY SIGHT:** If you see unexplained dead grass, natural gas might be leaking. Dirt or debris blowing in the air and water bubbling in a puddle, pond, or creek are other signs.

## What should I do if I suspect a leak?

### If you smell a faint gas odor:

- Make sure all gas appliances and burners on your stove are turned off completely.
- Open one or more windows and wait a few minutes for the gas odor to dissipate before investigating further.
- Check the pilot lights on your gas furnace, water heater, stove, and oven.
- Don't try to relight a gas appliance while you can still smell gas.
- If you need assistance relighting the pilot light, call a heating or plumbing contractor.

### If you smell a strong odor:

- Leave the area immediately.
- Do not use the telephone or cell phone until you reach a safe location away from the suspected leak. Then call Rock Energy at 866-752-4550 to report the location.
- Do not light a match or turn on or off any switches, flashlights, garage door openers, or other appliances as an electric arc might ignite the gas.

## How can I prevent pipeline damage?

- Call 811 before you dig or excavate to avoid hitting a natural gas pipeline or other buried utility line. State law requires people to call at least two days before any digging project. Utilities then will send a representative to the site so all underground lines can be marked.
- Remember that Rock Energy maintains buried gas pipes up to your meter. All pipes beyond that are the member's responsibility and should be periodically inspected for corrosion and leaks.



If you have any questions about natural gas safety, we would be happy to provide you with further information. Just call us at 866-752-4550.

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