



**NATURAL GAS**  
**PIPELINE**  
**SAFETY: HOW TO**  
**PROTECT**  
**YOUR**  
**COMMUNITY**

**Partners**  
in prevention

From  **ALLIANT**  
**ENERGY**

[alliantenergy.com/pipelinesafety](http://alliantenergy.com/pipelinesafety)

## Keeping your community safe

As a public official, you have authority over land, streets or roads near Alliant Energy-owned natural gas pipelines. We consider you an important partner in preventing natural gas emergencies and keeping your community safe. Our goal is to make sure you understand all of the preventive and protective steps we take to keep those living and working near these facilities out of harm's way.

Natural gas comes into homes and businesses in your community through a vast network of underground pipelines. In fact, Alliant Energy provides natural gas to more than 400,000 customers for heating, cooking, manufacturing and other activities. Not only is it a clean, efficient and convenient energy source, the pipelines used to transport natural gas have exceptional safety records. However, it can be dangerous and must be respected.



## Safety and reliability come first

As a result of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002, the Office of Pipeline Safety (currently known as the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, or PHMSA) requires natural gas pipeline operators to develop and implement integrity management programs.

Alliant Energy is committed to operating safe natural gas pipelines that meet all local, state and federal regulations. Our Integrity Management Program builds on an already comprehensive safety program by providing a process for inspecting and assessing the condition of Alliant Energy-owned natural gas pipelines and establishing a maintenance program based on best industry practices.

All natural gas pipeline operators, including Alliant Energy, must:

- Identify high consequence areas within their service territory;
- Periodically inspect the condition of natural gas pipelines;
- Promptly address potential problems discovered during inspections; and
- Communicate pipeline safety issues to public officials, emergency responders and the general public.



## Protecting high consequence areas

Integrity management programs focus specifically on the safety of natural gas transmission pipelines in high consequence areas, defined as highly-populated areas or identified sites that include:

- Facilities that are difficult to evacuate – hospitals, prisons, schools or assisted-living facilities;
- Outside areas where 20 or more people gather – playgrounds, campgrounds, stadiums or beaches; and
- Buildings that are occupied by 20 or more people on a regular basis – churches, office buildings and malls.



## Pipeline maintenance and inspection

To protect the integrity of our natural gas pipeline system, Alliant Energy regularly inspects its pipelines through leak surveys and other methods. We also perform routine maintenance, such as corrosion control.

We prioritize inspections of pipelines in high consequence areas based on specific risks and threats, including extreme weather conditions and potential for damage from excavators and homeowners who don't call to have underground utilities marked before digging or follow safe excavating practices.



If a potential problem is discovered during an inspection, Alliant Energy crews respond and resolve the problem, following current industry standards.

## Our commitment to your community's safety

Alliant Energy works closely with local governments, elected officials and industry groups to ensure our pipelines stay safe and secure. Here are a few of the things we do to keep communities safe:

- Provide training and educational materials to contractors and related businesses on safe digging practices;
- Regularly inspect our natural gas system;
- Ensure our workforce is trained and qualified;
- Design pipelines to ensure the safe delivery of natural gas;
- Mark and map pipeline facilities;
- Invest in new technologies and pipeline integrity management programs;
- Work with local emergency responders to help prevent and prepare for emergencies; and
- Educate the public on how to prevent, recognize and respond to natural gas leaks.

## Partnering with emergency officials/responders

Alliant Energy regularly works with local emergency officials to respond to incidents involving natural gas pipelines. Alliant Energy employees are on call 24 hours a day to assist first responders with natural gas emergencies. Our employees are specially trained to operate utility equipment and help make the situation safe, so it's extremely important that emergency responders allow them on the scene of the incident.

We also provide specific information about emergency responses and training to police, fire and emergency-responder organizations.



## Establishing safe land use/development near pipelines

Because damage from digging is the most common cause of underground natural gas leaks, you and other local officials can help keep your community safe by establishing guidelines for construction and development near natural gas pipelines. The development of these guidelines will assist Alliant Energy in monitoring the pipeline system through routine maintenance activities and required state/federal inspections.

Suggested guidelines include:

- Establishing set-back requirements for new construction and development near pipelines.
- Requiring the consent of easement holders as a condition of issuing permits for construction or development that may impact the safe operation of pipelines.
- During early planning stages, require pipeline operator involvement in road widening or grading, mining, blasting, dredging or other excavation activities that may impact the safe operation of the pipeline.
- Requesting residents, excavators and land developers to contact Alliant Energy regarding questions about the pipeline or its location.



## What every community member should know

Knowing where buried natural gas pipelines are located before residents or contractors begin a digging project is the best way to avoid being injured and disrupting utility service in your community. The depth of natural gas pipelines varies and there may be other utilities (telecommunications, sewers and drain lines, etc.) in the same area.

Damage from digging is the most common cause of underground natural gas leaks. Encourage all residents and contractors to “call before they dig” whenever they plan to landscape, install a fence or build a deck. It’s state law.



### Calling before you dig is even easier than before – just dial 811

One easy phone call to 811 instantly begins the process of getting underground utilities marked on residential, public or commercial property. Local One Call Centers will contact the appropriate utility companies, who send crews out to mark the underground utilities within three days. This service is free of charge.



You can still contact your state’s local One Call Center:

<b>Illinois:</b>	<b>JULIE</b>	<b>1-800-892-0123</b>
<b>Iowa:</b>	<b>Iowa One Call</b>	<b>1-800-292-8989</b>
<b>Minnesota:</b>	<b>Gopher State One Call</b>	<b>1-800-252-1166</b>
<b>Wisconsin:</b>	<b>Diggers’ Hotline</b>	<b>1-800-242-8511</b>

### F A R M S A F E T Y

If farming activities in your community include deep plowing, fence post installation, trenching, leveling, tilling, subsoiling or other excavation work, it’s especially important to call your state’s One Call Center before digging begins.



## Location of natural gas pipelines

It's likely that many people in your community work or live near natural gas pipelines. Since pipelines are buried underground, Alliant Energy uses markers to show the approximate location – particularly in rural areas.

The color, size and design may vary, but all markers must display the following:

- Material transported in the pipeline;
- Name of the pipeline operator; and
- Operator's telephone number in case of emergency.

Markers may be anywhere along the pipeline right-of-way, which typically run along a public street, but may also be on or near private property. The owner of the pipeline has the right to restrict certain activities in the pipeline right-of-way so they can access the area in an emergency or for maintenance.

For public safety, the following general guidelines should be observed on all pipeline rights-of-way to ensure there are no obstacles that may cause safety hazards and impede the path of emergency and repair vehicles:

- No structures, such as buildings, sheds and swimming pools should be located in the corridor.
- No trees or shrubs should be planted in the corridor.
- No blasting should be conducted in the corridor.



## National Pipeline Mapping System

You can also find out more about pipelines in your community via the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS), which provides contact information and data as well as maps of interstate and intrastate natural gas transmission pipelines.

Since 2002, transmission pipeline operators are required to submit mapping information to the NPMS and to update their submissions annually. Alliant Energy submits data on the natural gas transmission pipelines that we own and operate.

To find out who operates pipelines in your area, contact the NPMS at [npms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://npms.phmsa.dot.gov).

## Natural gas leaks – use your eyes, ears and nose

Although leaks from natural gas pipelines are rare, it's important to know the warning signs. Use your eyes, ears and nose, and call Alliant Energy if residents or contractors:

- See unexplained dead or dying grass or other vegetation near a pipeline, dirt or debris blowing into the air, or water bubbling in a puddle, river, pond or creek;
- Hear an unusual hissing, whistling or roaring sound;
- Smell an odor like rotten eggs. Natural gas is odorless and tasteless, so we add an odorant to the gas. This makes even the smallest leak easy to detect. Most transmission lines, which are larger and operate at a higher pressure than the lines that bring in natural gas to homes, ARE NOT odorized. That's why it's important to look for and report any of the other warning signs listed above.

If residents or contractors notice any of the above warning signs:

- Leave the area immediately.
- Don't stop to open windows.
- Don't touch anything that might create a spark, such as a light switch, telephone, cell phone or a garage door opener. If possible, stay away from carpeted areas to avoid sparks of electricity.
- Call Alliant Energy or your local natural gas provider from a remote location, and a natural gas technician or crew will investigate the situation.
- If natural gas is blowing outside or inside, call 911 immediately.



## USEFUL WEB SITES

National Pipeline Mapping System

[www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov)

Common Ground Alliance

[www.commongroundalliance.com](http://www.commongroundalliance.com)

Diggers Hotline

[www.diggershotline.com](http://www.diggershotline.com)

Iowa One Call

[www.iowaonecall.com](http://www.iowaonecall.com)

Gopher State One Call

[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org)

JULIE

[www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com)

**Please take a few minutes to review this information and share it within your governmental organization, especially with planning and zoning commission members.**

**For your convenience, this brochure has been posted on our Web site. Visit [alliantenergy.com/pipelinesafety](http://alliantenergy.com/pipelinesafety) or call 1-800-257-3645 for more information.**

Alliant Energy is the trade name of utility companies Interstate Power and Light Co. and Wisconsin Power and Light Co.

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