

## A COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

Underground utilities, including natural gas pipelines, exist everywhere. In general, pipeline companies and your local gas utility maintain all the gas lines up to your meter for your home or business. However, you are responsible for the gas lines from the meter to your home or business. Just as your natural gas utility conducts a program of regular facility inspection and maintenance, it's a good idea for home and business owners to have their natural gas plumbing and appliances checked annually by qualified service technicians.



It's also important to familiarize yourself with the pipeline markers that may exist on your property. They may be found near a transmission pipeline's Right of Way (ROW). The ROW provides sufficient space for pipeline operators to inspect and perform maintenance on the pipeline. If you ever damage or knock over one of these pipeline markers, please contact the pipeline operator or the Sunshine State's One-Call center, so it can be replaced immediately.

Most natural gas pipelines are buried underground, not only for safety reasons, but also to protect them from the weather and to provide reliable service. Though pipeline leaks and incidents occur only rarely, keeping the delivery of natural gas safe for everyone remains our highest priority.

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Clearwater Gas System  
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Clearwater, FL 33755-4748



## NATURAL GAS PIPELINE SAFETY

### A SAFETY MESSAGE FROM YOUR NATURAL GAS PROVIDER

Clearwater Gas operates an underground natural gas facility in your area. Because you live and work in the vicinity, we are providing this safety brochure to educate consumers regarding our pipeline damage prevention program.



**Clearwater Gas System**  
NATURAL & PROPANE GAS

## BASICS OF NATURAL GAS

Natural gas is an excellent source of energy for your home or business. It is economical, reliable and safe for the environment, but like all sources of energy, it should be used wisely. Always remember safety first when operating natural gas appliances of any kind.

Natural gas is a nontoxic, colorless, and odorless fuel that is lighter than air. This lighter-than-air quality is an important safety factor. If a leak occurs, natural gas will mix readily with air and rise into the atmosphere. As a safety measure the natural gas that is piped to your home or business has a harmless odor similar to rotten eggs so that you can easily detect even the smallest amount of gas that might escape.

From design and construction to operations and maintenance, natural gas utilities like ours set high standards to keep natural gas pipelines incident-free.

## DETECTING A NATURAL GAS LEAK

Natural gas is one of the safest, most reliable and environmentally friendly fuels in use today, but leaks can occur. There are three key ways to recognize a natural gas leak.

**Look.** Blowing dirt, bubbling creeks or ponds, dry spots in moist areas or dead plants surrounded by green, live plants also may indicate a natural gas leak.

**Listen.** An unusual hissing sound near gas lines or appliances may indicate a natural gas leak.

**Smell.** In its raw state, natural gas is colorless and odorless. Natural gas utility companies, like Clearwater Gas, add a substance called mercaptan to create the familiar, rotten-egg-like odor usually associated with natural gas. You should take action even if you detect only a faint odor of natural gas in the air.

We are part of your community. As your neighbors, we know it is important for everyone to be informed and know how to respond in case of a natural gas emergency. We work closely with public fire and safety officials to promote natural gas safety. We routinely provide damage prevention education and training at least once a year, to inform local officials on how to respond in the event of a natural gas emergency.

## NATURAL GAS SAFETY TIPS

Here are some key words to help you remember what to do if a natural gas leak is suspected:

**Leave.** Leave the area immediately. Do not try to find or stop the leak.

**Don't touch.** Do not smoke, use a cell phone, flashlight, turn on or off any lights or appliances or operate any kind of vehicle or equipment that could create a spark.

**Dial.** Immediately notify us. If a leak is suspected near a natural gas transmission pipeline, call the number on the pipeline marker. If the smell of gas is particularly strong, or no number is available, call 9-1-1.

Because pipelines are underground, line markers are used to indicate the approximate location of the pipelines. However, these markers do not indicate how deep the pipeline is buried. The pipeline route can also take twists and turns between markers. Never assume the pipeline lies in a straight line. Always call before you dig. **It's as easy as dialing 8-1-1, and it's the law!**



### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

**Clearwater Gas Emergency Hotline**  
(727) 462-6633  
[www.clearwatergas.com](http://www.clearwatergas.com)

**Dial 8-1-1**  
[www.Call811.com](http://www.Call811.com)

**Sunshine State One-Call**  
(800) 432-4770  
[www.callsunshine.com](http://www.callsunshine.com)

**General Information**  
(727) 298-3540