

Your Natural Gas Safety Information Guide



Look inside for safety instructions to help you identify potential problems before they occur and learn what to do in the event of an emergency



Gas Leak Hotline: 1-800-582-7060
Customer Care: 1-888-766-9900
Website: www.southjerseygas.com



About us

South Jersey Gas (SJG) transports and delivers natural gas to approximately 375,000 residential and business customers in all of Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and Salem counties as well as portions of Gloucester, Burlington, and Camden counties. SJG helps heat houses, warm water, and run appliances through a carefully managed network of transmission and distribution mains (the principal pipes carrying natural gas to and from buildings).

Your role in safety

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, natural gas pipelines provide one of the safest methods for transporting energy. Still, awareness of the location of pipelines, potential hazards, and what to do if a leak occurs can further enhance pipeline safety.

What you can do to help:

- **Locate** SJG transmission pipelines and facilities in your neighborhood (yellow markers standing four feet high labeled, "Warning Gas Pipeline - South Jersey Gas Company" and rights-of-way, etc.).
- **Save** SJG contact information including the emergency gas leak hotline (1-800-582-7060).
- **Look out** for any unusual or suspicious activities or excavations taking place near pipelines and report activities to SJG and local law enforcement.
- **Visit** www.southjerseygas.com for more information on SJG and natural gas safety.

Call before you dig. IT'S THE LAW!

Always dial 811 to reach New Jersey's One Call Center before starting any digging, excavation, construction, or farming project. Even common activities, like landscaping or fencing, can cause damage to a pipeline.



One easy, FREE phone call to 811 starts the process of getting a free markout of underground utility lines. In New Jersey, you must **contact the One Call Center three full business days before you intend to dig**. This gives all utilities, including SJG, the opportunity to mark the approximate location of underground utility lines on your proposed digging site. Once the underground lines are marked for your project, you can dig safely. Also, remember to hand dig within two feet of buried lines. More information regarding 811 can be found at www.call811.com.

This chart will help you determine which utilities have marked their underground utility lines.

 WHITE - Proposed excavation	 ORANGE - Communications, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit
 PINK - Temporary survey markings	 BLUE - Potable water lines
 RED - Electric power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables	 PURPLE - Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines
 YELLOW - Gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials	 GREEN - Sewer lines

What is a right-of-way and can I build or dig on it?

SJG establishes written agreements with landowners to allow for ease of construction and maintenance when natural gas pipelines cross private property. These strips of land over transmission pipelines are known as rights-of-way (ROW). SJG maintains ROW to ensure the safety of its pipelines. ROW are often recognizable as corridors that are clear of trees, buildings, or structures other than pipeline markers. State law requires SJG to maintain a clearance for ROW on either side of its pipelines. ROW may not always have markers clearly present and may only be distinguished by cleared areas of land.

Disturbances to ROW make it difficult for SJG to prevent third-party damage, provide surveillance, and perform maintenance and inspections.



Example of a pipeline marker



How would you know where the pipeline is?

Most pipelines are installed underground for greater protection. To help identify its pipelines, SJG installs yellow markers along transmission pipeline routes to signal the approximate location of the pipeline. The markers contain SJG information, information on the product transported in the pipe, and an emergency contact number. Pipeline markers **DO NOT** include information on pipeline depth.

How would you recognize a gas leak?

Smell – An unusual smell or gaseous odor sometimes accompanies a leak. While natural gas is colorless and odorless, SJG adds a harmless, non-toxic odorant, Mercaptan, to give it a smell similar to rotten eggs. This makes it easier to identify a leak.

Sight – Bubbling water, blowing dirt, dead or discolored plants, or frozen ground in warm weather are signs of a gas leak. Natural gas is colorless, but vapor and “ground frosting” may be visible.

Sound – Volume can range from a quiet blowing or hissing to a loud roar.

If a leak occurs:

- **DO** - Leave the area immediately by foot, try to direct any other bystanders to leave the area, and attempt to move to a safe location upwind.
- **DO** - Call the SJG leak hotline at 1-800-582-7060 immediately and dial 911.
- **DON'T** use any electrical switch, cell phone, match, door bell, motor vehicle, or electrical equipment.
- **DON'T** come into direct contact with any escaping vapors or natural gas.
- **DON'T** drive into a leak or vapor cloud while leaving the area.
- **DON'T** attempt to operate any pipeline valves.
- **DON'T** attempt to extinguish a pipeline fire. Always wait for local firefighters and other trained professionals to handle the situation.

Maintaining pipeline safety and integrity

SJG invests significant time and capital into maintaining the quality and integrity of its gas transmission system. The system is monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. SJG also uses ground surveillance to identify potential dangers, including gas leaks.

What to do in the event of a damaged or disturbed pipeline:

If you cause or witness even minor damage to a pipeline or its protective coating, please immediately notify SJG. Even a small disturbance to a pipeline may cause a future leak. SJG will immediately dispatch trained personnel to assist emergency responders. Together, SJG personnel and emergency responders will work to protect residents, property, and the environment.



Planning, zoning, and property development

It is important to work with SJG in all land use and development plans near transmission pipelines. Changes on either side of the pipeline could cause stress on the pipeline and create a safety hazard.

Types of pipelines and maps

Transmission pipelines transport natural gas across the country and to storage facilities. They are typically larger than gathering and distribution lines. Compressor stations are located along transmission and gathering pipeline routes and help move natural gas through the line to the rest of the SJG system.

The National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) provides geographic information about pipeline operators and their lines. You can search the NPMS website (www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov) by county and state to display a map of the transmission pipelines in your area. It was created by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration in cooperation with other government agencies and the pipeline industry.

For more information regarding pipeline safety and an overview of the pipeline industry, please visit the following websites:

Pipeline Resources and Information

- Pipeline 101 — www.pipeline101.com
- Association of Oil Pipe Lines (AOPL) — www.aopl.org
- American Petroleum Institute (API) — www.api.org
- Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA) — www.ingaa.org
- American Gas Association (AGA) — www.aga.org
- 811 — www.call811.com
- Common Ground Alliance (CGA) — www.commongroundalliance.com

Regulatory Agencies

- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) — www.dot.gov
- Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) — www.phmsa.dot.gov
- National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) — www.nts.gov
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) — www.ferc.gov
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC - Oil Pipelines) — www.ferc.gov/industries/oil.asp
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) — www.osha.gov
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) — www.nfpa.org
- New Jersey Board of Public Utilities — www.bpu.state.nj.us/

PRODUCTS TRANSPORTED IN YOUR AREA

PRODUCT	LEAK TYPE	VAPORS
NATURAL GAS	Gas	Lighter than air and will generally rise and dissipate. May gather in a confined space and travel to a source of ignition.
HEALTH HAZARDS	Easily ignited by heat, sparks, or flames and will form explosive mixtures with air. Vapors may cause dizziness or asphyxiation without warning and may be toxic if inhaled at high concentrations. Contact with gas or liquefied gas may cause burns, severe injury, and/or frostbite.	

CONTACT INFORMATION

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