

## **GULF COAST MINERAL, LLC**

GCM operates 38 miles of natural gas pipeline that runs through the cities of Gulf Shores, Foley, and Orange Beach. Our pipeline system is a class 2 gas gathering system.

It is very important that the public feel safe knowing that GCM is doing everything to practice it's own pipeline safety. This program is designed to educate the public on pipeline safety but it is also GCM's responsibility to include safety in its daily routines and all decision making.

Our membership to the One Call Center is one way GCM practices pipeline safety. One of the ways we ensure damage prevention is to complete our requested line locates. When a person or company has the intentions of digging or excavating it is required of them to call the local One Call Center and request a line locate. The One Call Center then sends us a line locate request. We then visit the site where the planned excavation will occur and mark our pipeline with yellow (indicates natural gas) flags with our company information. We guarantee that all of our requested line locates are completed within 48 hours by our field personnel. A lot of times people who live around a location where pipelines are being flagged are curious as to why we are placing the flags. GCM's field personnel does not hesitate to explain the process of line locations and pipeline safety. All of our line locates are logged and kept for reference if needed.

Another way GCM ensures our operations are safe is by having our field personnel visit each well location everyday giving the well site an overall maintenance check. Part of this daily inspection includes walking portions of the pipeline and checking for any leaks or visible damage to the pipeline. Twice a year the pipeline is walked in its entirety. Last but not least our compressor station is visited daily by field personnel to check gauges, look for maintenance issues, and check for leaks.

Lastly, GCM ensures that its personnel have a great understanding of pipeline safety and maintenance. This is done through seminars, specifically APACT's annual Baldwin County seminar and through online databases including our membership with Energy World Net.

Please visit our website to learn more about Gulf Coast Mineral. Also at [www.gulfcoastmineral.com](http://www.gulfcoastmineral.com) there is a link for Pipeline Safety. Please visit this link to see are latest information on pipeline safety and our up to date Damage Prevention Plan, Emergency Procedures, and our Public Awareness Plan.

### **PLEASE READ:**

**IF YOU RECEIVE ANY FOLLOW UP QUESTIONNAIRES PLEASE FILL THEM OUT AND RETURN THEM. THIS IS VITAL TO GCM'S PUBLIC AWARENESS PLAN AND WILL ASSIST GCM IN GATHERING DATA SO WE CAN DETERMINE WHAT STEPS NEED TO BE TAKEN TO REACH THE NECESSARY PUBLIC.**

### **PLEASE READ:**

**IF YOU RECEIVE ANY FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONNAIRES PLEASE FILL THE OUT AND BACK. POSTAGE WILL ALWAYS BE PROVIDED. AS A PART OF OUR ANNUAL INSPECTION WE ARE REQUIRED TO RECEIVE AND REVIEW FEEDBACK FROM THE PUBLIC. WITHOUT YOUR SURVEY WE CAN NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. YOUR RESPONSE IS VERY APPRECIATED.**

**THANK YOU!**

# **PIPELINE SAFETY**

**Distributed By:  
Gulf Coast Mineral, LLC**

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**This brochure is being distributed as part of GCM's Public Awareness Program. As a local Natural Gas Pipeline Operator is it our job to educate the public on pipeline safety. If you have ANY questions please contact us.**

## **PIPELINE PURPOSE & RELIABILITY**

Pipelines are the safest and most efficient means of transporting natural gas and petroleum products, according to the National Transportation Safety Board statistics. These pipelines transport the natural gas, which provides about 24 percent of all the energy used in the United States, and over 700 million gallons of petroleum products per day.

In the United States alone, there are over 200,000 miles of petroleum pipelines and 300,000 miles of natural gas transmission pipelines in use every day. Transmission pipelines are typically larger than gathering and distribution lines. They transport energy products across the county and to storage facilities. Compressor stations and pumping stations are located along transmission and gathering pipeline routes and help push energy products through the line.

Local Distribution Companies deliver natural gas to most homes and businesses through underground main and utility service lines. These lines cover over 800,000 miles of underground pipeline in the United States.

Onshore gathering lines are pipelines that transport gas from a current production operation facility to a transmission line or main. Production operations are piping and equipment used in production and preparation for transportation or delivery of hydrocarbon gas and/or liquids.

## **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!**

State and federally regulated pipeline companies maintain Damage Prevention Programs. The purpose of this program is to prevent damage to our pipelines and facilities from excavation activities, such as digging, trenching, blasting, boring, tunneling, backfilling, or by any other digging activity.

Because even relatively minor excavation activities like landscaping or fencing can cause damage to a pipeline, its protective casing and/or buried utility lines, always contact your state One-Call Center before engaging in any excavation, construction, farming or digging. Most states require 2 working days notice to the One-Call Center, (excluding weekends & holidays) to allow the utility operators to mark their pipelines and utilities at our proposed digging site. In fact, most serious damage done to pipelines is done when a third party inadvertently excavates, blasts or drills within a pipeline right-of-way. By contacting the One-Call Center first, this type of damage can be prevented. Sometimes pipeline companies will require a representative present to monitor the safe excavation.

One easy FREE phone call to 811 starts the process to get your underground pipelines and utility lines marked. When you call 811 from anywhere in the country, your call will be routed to your state One-Call Center. Once your underground lines have been marked for your project, you will know the approximate location of your pipelines and utility lines, and can dig safely. More information regarding 811 can be found at [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com).

## **HOW WOULD YOU KNOW WHERE A PIPELINE IS?**

Most pipelines are underground, where they are more protected from the elements and minimize interference with surface uses. Even so, pipeline rights-of-way are clearly identified by pipeline markers along pipeline routes that identify the approximate -NOT EXACT- location of the pipeline. Every pipeline marker contains information identifying the company that operates the pipeline, the product transported, and a phone number that should be called in the event of an emergency. Markers do not indicate pipeline burial depth, which will vary. Markers are typically seen where a pipeline intersects a street, highway or railway. For any person to willfully deface, damage, remove, or destroy any pipeline marker is a federal crime.

## **RECOGNIZING A PIPELINE LEAK**

**Sight** - Liquid pools, continuous bubbling in wet or flooded areas, an oily sheen on water surfaces, and vaporous fogs or blowing dirt around a pipeline area, dead or discolored plants in an otherwise healthy area of vegetation or frozen ground in warm weather are all signs of a pipeline leak. Natural gas is colorless, but vapor and "ground frosting" may be visible at high pressures. A natural gas leak may also be indicated by dust blowing from a hole in the ground or flames if the leak is ignited.

**Sound** - Volume can range from a quiet hissing to a loud roar depending on the size of the leak and pipeline system.

**Smell** - An unusual smell, petroleum odor, or gaseous odor will sometimes accompany pipeline leaks. Natural Gas and Highly Volatile Liquids are colorless, tasteless and odorless unless commercial odorants or Mercaptan is added. Gas transmission/gas gathering pipelines are odorless, but may contain a hydrocarbon smell.

## **WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT A LEAK WERE TO OCCUR**

Turn off any equipment and eliminate any ignition sources without risking injury.

Leave the area by foot immediately. Try to direct any other bystanders to leave the area. Attempt to stay upwind.

If known, from a safe location, notify the pipeline operator immediately and call 911 or your local emergency response number. The operator will need your name, your phone number, a brief description of the incident, and the location so the proper response can be initiated.

Gulf Coast Mineral, LLC: 251-948-9681  
Gulf Coast Mineral (After Hours): 251-424-8287  
Local Emergency Services: 911  
Baldwin County Sheriff : 251-937-0202

City of Foley - Riviera Utilities: 251-943-5001  
City of Gulf Shores - Utilities: 251-968-6323  
City of Orange Beach - Utilities: 251-974-5216  
Baldwin County Highway Dept: 251-972-8530

## **WHAT NOT TO DO IN THE EVENT A LEAK WERE TO OCCUR**

Do Not cause any open flame or other potential source of ignition such as an electrical switch, vehicle ignition, light a match, etc. do not start motor vehicles or electrical equipment. Do not ring doorbells to notify others of the leak. Knock with your hand to avoid potential sparks from knockers.

Do Not come into direct contact with any escaping liquids or gas.

Do Not drive into a leak or vapor cloud while leaving the area.

Do Not attempt to operate any pipeline valves yourself. You may inadvertently route more product to the leak or cause a secondary incident.

Do Not attempt to extinguish a petroleum product or natural gas fire. Wait for local firemen and other professionals trained to deal with such emergencies.

## **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

Become familiar with the pipelines and pipeline facilities in the area.

Record the operator name, contact information and any pipeline information from nearby marker/facility signs and keep in a permanent location near the phone.

Be aware of unusual or suspicious activities or unauthorized excavations taking place within or near the pipeline facility or pipeline right-of-way pipeline facility; report such activities to the pipeline operator and local law enforcement.

Communicate with your local pipeline operator. if you have any questions about pipeline safety or the pipeline facilities near you contact the operator by phone or e-mail.

Visit <http://www.apwa.net/> for the American Public Works Association Uniform Color Code. This will describe the various colored markers or flags used and what each represents. For GCM our markers will be yellow representing Natural Gas.

***PLEASE RETURN ANY QUESTIONNAIRES YOU RECEIVE  
This is vital to the public awareness of pipeline safety. Without your response your local operators will not know if the materials are being received and/or understood.***

## **EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS**

Gulf Shores Fire Dept: 251-968-7422  
Orange Beach Fire Dept: 251-981-6166  
Foley Fire Dept: 251-943-1710