



### **What is natural gas?**

Natural gas is a clean burning fossil fuel found beneath the earth's surface. Because of its efficiency and ease of use, it has become the most popular source of home heating in America. Natural gas is odorless, so to provide safety to you, an odor of rotten eggs is added to the gas so it can be recognized and reported.

### **How is natural gas transported?**

Natural gas is piped to you from wells in Texas and Oklahoma. Over 2 million miles of pipe in the United States transport both liquid and gases through out the country. Natural gas provides one fourth of the country's energy serving 69 million customers. The City of Safford serves 3852 customers and maintains over 71 miles of distribution piping.

### **Are Pipelines reliable and safe?**

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, the natural gas delivery system has the best safety record of any energy delivery system. Natural gas lines are mostly buried, and all systems are heavily monitored by state and federal regulators. Adherence to these strict codes has helped the City of Safford maintain a history of safe delivery of natural gas. We continuously monitor our system to protect life and property of our customers.

### **What are the potential hazards of natural gas?**

With proper handling natural gas is a safe, clean and efficient fuel source. But you need to respect it, and know its potential hazards;

- leaks can cause fire and/or explosion
- Carbon Monoxide poisoning
- Suffocation
- Service outages.

### **We keep you safe**

The City of Safford works hard at providing natural gas to you, our customers. We hold mock emergency drills with the Safford Fire and Police departments to be sure that we are prepared for natural gas emergencies. We inform excavators and all residents of Safford to call bluestake and wait for the marks on the ground before digging. A reminder for gas safety and bluestake is printed regularly.

### **Is it easy to see where a gas pipe is located?**

Our large gas mains have markers intermittently placed above ground to give their approximate location. Our smaller lines and service lines do not. We have maps and locating equipment to mark lines as accurately as possible. If you are digging near a marked line, you must "soft dig" with a shovel and locate the line before using an excavator. Failure to use the bluestake service is the number one cause of damaged gas lines in America. Please help us reduce that risk.



### **Who should I call before I dig?**

If you are going to plant a tree, set a mail box or do work that is going to require digging on your property call Arizona Bluestake at 1-800 STAKE-IT (1-800-782-5348). Or a new national number- 811. It's FREE!



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**



**Determina lo que está bajo tierra.  
Llama antes de excavar.**

### **What if I dig and hit a pipe?**

If you have called a bluestake or not, if you disturb a pipe, please call the City of Safford gas division at (928)432-4200. If the pipe is blowing gas, get away from the area and wait for a crew to respond. If you feel it presents a serious hazard call 911- do not hesitate!

If you have exposed a line, call the City of Safford gas department at (928)432-4200. Just a nick can weaken a pipe over time and cause a hazardous leak in the future. Please call, we'll repair the nick and get you on your way.

### **What do I do if I smell gas or suspect a leak?**

You can smell a leak, you can hear a leak hiss, and you can see a leak if the dirt is swirling or a puddle is bubbling. No matter how big or how small you suspect the leak- immediately leave the area and warn others to stay away. If you suspect that excavation equipment has struck a pipeline- do not attempt to move the equipment, shut it off and leave the area. Once you are a safe distance from the area call (928)432-4200 or 911. The City of Safford has a stand by employee that will respond 24 hours a day, seven days a week to any call of a gas leak.

### **Emergency preparedness**

The City of Safford maintains close communications with the local emergency responders to our service area. We share information as to equipment and the ability of the Fire department, Police department and Department of Public Safety to respond in a gas emergency. These efforts are reported to the Arizona Corporation Commission and reviewed regularly to improve our ability to respond to gas emergencies.

Where can you get additional information?

For emergency	911
US Dept. of Transportation- Pipeline Section	<a href="http://ops.dot.gov">http//ops.dot.gov</a>
City of Safford	432-4200
Si queden copias, llama a el numero abajo	432-4202