

Emergency Responder Topics

In an emergency, SoCalGas® focuses on the safety of our customers and employees by getting the gas under control. *Police and Fire First Responders can assist us in our efforts by protecting the public and isolating or removing ignition sources.*

1. Pipeline purpose and reliability

2. Hazard awareness and prevention

- Properties of natural gas
- Potential Hazard of gas transportation
- Potential hazards
- Preventative measures

3. Leak recognition and response

- How to recognize a pipeline leak
- First Response to a Pipeline Leak – Police and Fire Hotline: 1-800-325-4070
- Methods for controlling escaping gas
- If necessary, evacuate the public to a safe distance, DOT ERG states 150-300 feet initially
- Control ignition sources
- Do not operate electrical switches, sparks could cause ignition
- Be cognizant of “static electricity” potential as a possible ignition source
- Attempt to control gas flow at an appliance or meter only. Never at the damaged pipe, a street curb valve or other main metering valve
- NEVER enter a suspected gas filled atmosphere
 - without full structural firefighter protective clothing
 - without monitoring the atmosphere, using multiple monitors
 - when the atmosphere contains more than 10 percent of the Lower Explosive Limit (LEL) or 0.45 percent for natural gas
- Closed valves should remain so until opened by utility personnel
- Use exposure protection tactics, extinguish surrounding fire, but not the gas fire itself until utility can control the gas flow

4. Emergency Preparedness Communications

SoCalGas has adopted Incident Command Structure (ICS)

When calling the hotline:

- Be prepared to provide us with:
- call back number, contact name
- detailed location, structure, surrounding area
- type of emergency: fire, leak, vapor
- when incident was reported
- special conditions: weather, terrain
- SoCalGas Supervisors are on-call 24/7
- During business hours, SoCalGas will respond immediately.
- During “off-hours” SoCalGas makes every effort to respond immediately

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5. Damage Prevention

- 811 – Call Before You Dig
- Pipeline markers are used to denote general location of a High-Pressure pipeline.

6. Pipeline location information:

- Southern California Gas Company
socalgas.com/safety
- National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS)
npms.phmsa.dot.gov
- National Association of State Fire Marshall's
pipelineemergencies.com
- Pipeline Association for Public Awareness
pipelineawareness.org

7. Integrity Management and High-Consequence Areas (HCA)

- We regularly conduct leakage surveys and patrols of pipelines to identify potential leaks or problems. And, whenever we work on a line, we look for potential problems and often use ultrasound, x-ray and other technologies to inspect the pipe.
- HCAs generally are heavily populated areas or sites where 20 or more people gather 50 or more days a year.
- SoCalGas has about 1,200 miles pipelines.