



**DTE Energy®**

# SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR NATURAL GAS PIPELINE SAFETY



# AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT DTE ENERGY'S NATURAL GAS PIPELINES

For more than a century, DTE Energy has safely delivered natural gas to families and businesses throughout Michigan. Today, the safety of our customers and employees remains our highest priority.

You are receiving this brochure because you live or work near one of DTE Energy's pipelines. As part of its safety commitment, DTE Energy is dedicated to preventing damage and building awareness about how to respond to pipeline emergencies. This information is just one part of that effort.

Each year, we inspect more than 12,800 miles of distribution pipeline. All mains and service lines are surveyed at least every three years and cast iron mains are surveyed once every year. We have also been recognized as a national leader for quick response to reported gas leaks.

The bottom line is that we're putting the health and safety of people first, but we need your help. Please read and share the attached information so that you, and your family, friends and neighbors can be aware of how to recognize, respond to and avoid natural gas pipeline emergencies.

Thank you in advance for your support in the continued safe operation of our pipelines.

Sincerely,



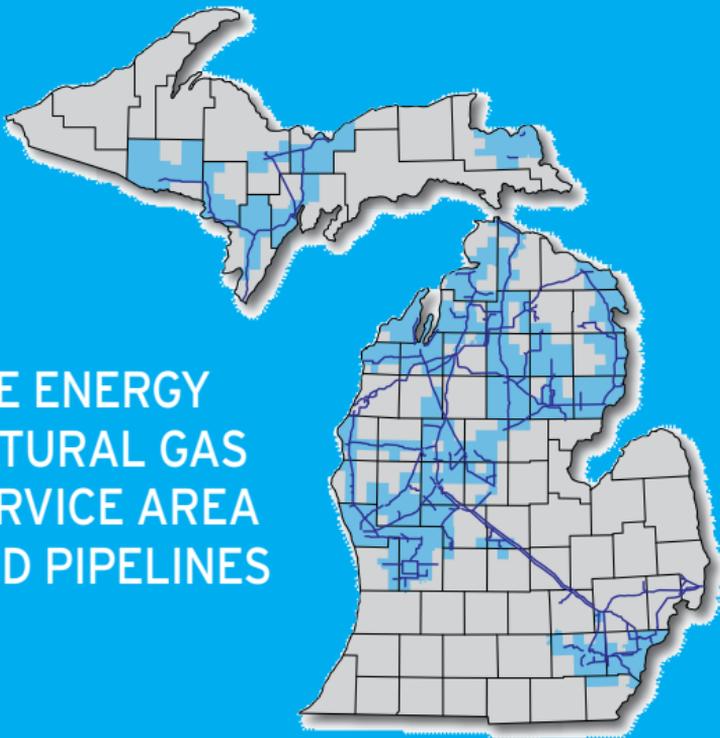
Mark Stiers

President and Chief Operating Officer, DTE Gas

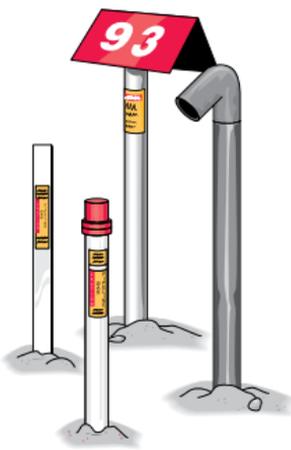
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## DTE ENERGY NATURAL GAS SERVICE AREA AND PIPELINES



### HOW TO IDENTIFY A PIPELINE



DTE Energy has a network of underground natural gas pipelines throughout Michigan. Buried pipelines are out of sight so it's easy to forget about them. Sometimes, pipelines are marked by above-ground markers, but often they are not. DTE Energy uses these markers to indicate approximate, but not exact, locations of pipelines.

### KNOW WHAT'S BELOW - CALL MISS DIG

Please remember .... Before you break ground, Michigan law (PA 174) requires that you call **811** at least three working days in advance to have the location of underground pipelines marked. Natural gas pipelines will be marked with yellow paint, flags or stakes. You can also contact **MISS DIG** at **800-482-7171**. MISS DIG, it's fast, it's free and it's the law.



### WHAT HAPPENS IF A PIPELINE IS DAMAGED?

Damage to pipelines occurs most often when people dig near a pipeline location. Pipelines can be accidentally hit, dented, scraped or gouged. Sometimes, there may not be any apparent damage to the pipeline.

When a pipeline is damaged, the supply of natural gas to homes and businesses could be interrupted. A damaged pipeline can leak natural gas - possibly causing fires, explosions or asphyxiation. These hazards could also be caused by:

- Extreme natural events such as floods and tornadoes
- Fire or explosion near a pipeline.
- Collapsed buildings that break or damage gas pipelines.
- Water main breaks that weaken roadways and pavement, damaging gas pipelines.
- Under or overpressure in the gas system.
- Equipment failure.
- Uncontrolled escaping gas.



Automated control centers monitor our gas system. Alarms are activated when any abnormalities occur in gas pressure, flow or temperature. We quickly respond to any natural gas emergency. *If your digging equipment or tools make contact with the pipeline, stop your excavation and contact the utility company immediately.*

## POSSIBLE SIGNS OF A NATURAL GAS LEAK

- A blowing or hissing sound.
- Dust blowing from a hole in the ground.
- Continuous bubbling in wet or flooded areas.
- An odor similar to the smell of rotten eggs.
- Dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area
- Abnormally dry or hardened soil.
- Flames, if a leak has ignited

*If you smell gas or suspect a leak, leave the area at once and immediately call DTE Energy's gas leak hotline at **800.947.5000**.*

## IF A PIPELINE LEAK OR EMERGENCY OCCURS

- Evacuate occupants from the building and/or area. Do not use any telephones (including cell phones), doorbells, light switches, pagers or any other electrical equipment.
- Avoid all open flames. Do not smoke.
- Do not start up or shut down any machinery, vehicles or equipment in or near the area.

- Keep people at a safe distance from the area
- Remember, upwind of a leak is the safest place to be.
- Do not attempt to stop the leak. If the gas is burning - let it burn. Do not attempt to extinguish the flame. Burning gas will not explode.
- Call DTE Energy's pipeline emergency number, **800.363.9541** \* immediately from an outside phone that is a good distance away from the leak area.

*\* If you are a DTE Energy customer experiencing a non-pipeline gas emergency (such as a gas leak inside your home or business) call 800.947.5000.*

## PLANNING TO EXCAVATE? CALL 811 FIRST

If you are planning to excavate, DTE Energy wants to remind you to dig safely through four simple steps:

1. **Call 811.** It's fast, It's free and it's the law.
2. **Wait until the flags are raised.** Allow at least three business days for utilities to mark the lines in your designated work area.
3. **Expose utility lines by hand-digging.** Before using any power equipment, carefully hand-dig where the utility lines are marked to expose them. If you are unable to locate the utility lines, please contact MISS DIG and wait for assistance from the utility company.
4. **Respect the flags.** Stay aware of all underground utility line locations, even if you're not working near them. And never drive heavy vehicles or store materials over marked utility lines. Remind children not to remove the flags and if a child pulls out the utility flags, do not attempt to place the flags back in the ground. Call **811** to indicate the utility lines need to be marked again.

*Notify DTE Energy if digging equipment or tools contact our underground pipelines. Minor damage, such as nicks, scratches, cuts, scrapes, dents or gouges can result in pipeline failure or a major incident in the future if not properly assessed beforehand. Contact DTE Energy before back-filling your excavation.*



## IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT NATURAL GAS

### Natural gas is the cleanest burning of all fossil fuels.

It has a very limited range of flammability. It requires the right mixture of air and natural gas before it will burn - roughly between four percent and 15 percent natural gas. Natural gas has a very high ignition temperature, about 1100 F.

### Natural gas is naturally odorless.

Natural gas has no odor or color. DTE Energy adds a harmless chemical to give natural gas its distinctive scent. It smells kind of like rotten eggs - that helps all of us easily detect gas leaks. Please note: Not all pipelines carry odorized natural gas. Dead vegetation, blowing dirt, hissing or roaring noises are signs that a natural gas leak could be present.

### Natural gas is non-toxic and lighter than air.

In large concentrations, it will displace the air in enclosed spaces and cause suffocation because of the lack of oxygen. However, it will rise and disperse if released into the open air.

## PIPELINE INTEGRITY

DTE Energy has established a Pipeline Integrity management program in conjunction with federal and state regulations. Inspection and maintenance work is performed regularly, such as leak survey and corrosion control. Sometimes, pipeline segments are replaced if necessary. This program enhances preventive and mitigative measures DTE Energy already has in place to ensure the continued safe and reliable operation of our transmission pipeline system. Selected segments of the pipeline are known as high consequence area (HCA).

HCAs along the pipeline are typically densely populated areas or rural areas containing identified sites adjacent to the pipeline. Identified sites may be churches, schools, hospitals, day-care centers, assisted-living facilities, campgrounds or other buildings and outside areas where people congregate.

You can help by alerting us to any of these identified sites or reporting any unusual activity that is near our transmission facilities. Go to **dteenergy.com** and click on BUSINESS, MUNICIPALITIES and then DAMAGE PREVENTION.

For general information, visit our web site at **dteenergy.com** and search gas safety. To view a list of pipeline operators in your area, visit **<https://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov/>**

If you would like additional information about excavation safety and damage prevention, contact MISS DIG's administrative office at **248.370.6400**, or contact and participate in your local Damage Prevention Association (DPA).

- Capital Area DPA
- Ottawa-Kent DPA
- Shiawassee-Genesee-Lapeer DPA
- Tri-County DPA
- Wayne-Oakland-Macomb Construction Safety Committee
- Mid-Michigan DPA
- Muskegon-Newaygo-Oceana DPA
- Kalamazoo Area DPA or Southwest Michigan Utilities Protection Association
- Livingston/Oakland/Washtenaw Damage Prevention Association

Information about all of the state's damage prevention associations can be found on MISS DIG's Web site: **[missdig.net](http://missdig.net)**.

*Thank you for taking the time to read this brochure. Your cooperate helps to ensure the safety of our natural gas pipeline system and your neighborhood.*