Colonial Pipeline Company
Pipeline Safety Information
Información Sobre la Seguridad de las Tuberías

Facts You Need to Know
Datos Que Usted Debería Saber

Please share this information with all members of your household
Por favor comparta esta información con todos los miembros de su hogar
Who is Colonial Pipeline?
Colonial Pipeline Company is an interstate common carrier of liquid refined petroleum products. Our 5,500-mile underground network of pipe stretches from Texas to New York harbor. Each day, we transport an average of 100 million gallons of gasoline, kerosene, home heating oil, diesel fuel, and jet fuel to supply our nation’s growing need for energy. That amounts to almost 15% of all the liquid fuels delivered in the United States today. For additional information about Colonial, please visit our website at www.colpipe.com.

Why are petroleum pipelines important?
Colonial Pipeline is just one part of a vast, national energy transmission system. Petroleum products flow through pipelines – some above ground, and some, like Colonial, buried beneath the ground – that provide fuel for our cars, homes, factories, and for airline travel and defense.

You can obtain access to maps that show the approximate location of transmission pipelines in your community by visiting the National Pipeline Mapping Systems (NPMS) at https://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov/. NPMS can also provide a list of pipeline operators in your area and their contact information.

How do I know if there is a pipeline nearby?
Federal law requires that all underground pipelines are posted with marker signs to indicate that a pipeline is buried underground. Colonial posts yellow, black, and red markers at frequent points along the pipeline right of way to identify the presence of our pipeline (See marker example on this page). Pipeline markers are also posted at all locations where pipelines pass beneath roads, rivers and streams, railroad tracks and other locations. These warning signs, posted in both English and Spanish, provide vital information about the product being transported and list the phone number to dial in an emergency. While pipeline markers identify the approximate location of the pipeline, they do not reveal the exact location or depth of the pipeline. That’s why it’s important to always call 811 before you dig.

How does Colonial maintain the safety and integrity of its pipelines?
Colonial understands that you expect us to protect you and the environment we all share. To do that, we spend $75 million a year on programs that prevent damage and maintain the integrity of our pipeline. We use sophisticated electronic tools called “smart pigs” that travel through the pipeline to help us identify sections of pipe that need to be inspected for possible repair or replacement. We also install corrosion prevention systems along the pipeline to help deter oxidation of steel pipe. Our pipelines are monitored 24 hours a day from a manned control center; pipeline controllers can shut down the pipeline within seconds if a problem is identified. We also use aerial and foot patrols to inspect the pipeline right of way for leaks or damage.

Certain segments along the pipeline system are called High Consequence Areas because they are close to highly populated areas, areas unusually sensitive to environmental damage, or commercially navigable waterways. Transmission pipeline operators are required to maintain supplemental hazard assessment programs called Integrity Management Plans (IMP) for all HCAs. An overview of Colonial’s IMP can be obtained by calling 678-762-2250.

To learn more about pipeline safety, visit the following site:
http://pipelineawareness.com/colonial
How can I help prevent pipeline accidents?
The leading cause of pipeline accidents in the United States is from third-party damage caused by digging without knowing where pipelines are buried. State laws require that individuals and excavators call the Nationwide One-Call number - 811 - to obtain accurate information on a pipeline's location before digging. The service is smart, convenient and free. By calling 811 you avoid disruptions in service, delay of your project, accidents, injuries and even death. ALWAYS CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG!

How do I recognize a leak?
According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, pipelines are the nation's safest and most efficient means of transporting petroleum products. Pipeline leaks are rare, but they can occur. A petroleum product leak can be identified by the following:
- A dark or oily patch on the ground or a sheen on water near a river, stream or lake
- Spots of dead vegetation
- Unusual hissing or roaring noise coming from the pipeline or near a marker
- A strong odor or scent of petroleum products

What should I do if I suspect a leak?
Refined petroleum products are flammable and explosive under certain conditions. They are potential carcinogens, can cause eye and skin irritation, and can be harmful if inhaled. They also pose an environmental danger to plant and wildlife. If you suspect a pipeline leak, take the following actions to protect your safety and the safety of others in the area:
- DO NOT make contact with the escaped product.
- DO NOT attempt to operate equipment or close valves. Pipelines operate under high pressures; personal injury or damage to the pipeline may result.
- Leave the area immediately and warn others to stay away.
- DO NOT use a telephone or cell phone, attempt to light a match, start a vehicle, turn an electrical appliance on or off, or otherwise provide an ignition source in the vicinity of the pipeline.
- Turn off any running machinery; NEVER drive into a vapor cloud.
- When you are a safe distance from the pipeline, immediately CALL 911 to report a pipeline emergency. Be prepared to give the location, description of the leak, your name and a contact number.
- Then CALL Colonial's 24-hour emergency number at 1-800-926-2728 to report the emergency to pipeline personnel.

What should I do if I damage or disturb a pipeline?
If you damage or disturb a Colonial pipeline – even if you do not cause a leak – you must call our 24-hour emergency number at 1-800-926-2728. The smallest damage may eventually cause a leak. Protect your safety and the safety of your community by calling to report any scrapes, dents, gouges or damage to pipeline coatings.

What should I do if I observe unsafe or suspicious activity on the right of way?
If you observe signs of a leak, witness unauthorized excavation, or suspicious activity on the right of way, immediately call 1-800-926-2728. Colonial will send an inspector to investigate. If you are the first to notify Colonial of a verified unsafe or unauthorized activity, you could receive a cash reward for helping us protect our pipeline and your community.
PROTECT COLONIAL’S PIPELINE & YOUR SAFETY

BEFORE YOU DIG:
• Call 811
• Wait the required time for the lines to be marked
• Respect the marks and dig with care

The leading cause of pipeline accidents in the United States is digging without knowing where pipelines are located. Each state requires individuals who plan to dig or excavate to call 811 two to three days prior to the proposed excavation activity. The service is smart, convenient and free. And it’s the law. Even if you are just planting shrubs or trees or putting in a new mailbox, you need to “know what’s below.”

ANTES DE QUE USTED EXCAVE:
• Llame al 811
• Espere el tiempo requerido para que las líneas sean marcadas
• Respete las marcas y cave con cuidado

La causa principal de los accidentes de la tubería en los Estados Unidos es cavando sin saber dónde se localiza la tubería. Cada estado requiere a individuos que planean cavar o excavar a que llamen al 811 dos a tres días antes de la actividad propuesta de la excavación. El servicio es inteligente, conveniente y gratis. Y es la ley. Aunque usted solo esté plantando arbustos o árboles o solo esté poniendo una caja nueva de correo, usted necesita “saber que está debajo.”