

# Living Safely with Natural Gas



**Socorro Natural Gas Company**  
575-835-0240



## Identifying Gas Pipeline Markers

Pipeline markers can be found in areas where a pipeline intersects a street, highway or railroad. They can also be located where gas pipelines cross open land, typically on pipeline right-of ways.

### It is important to know that:

- Pipelines may not be in a straight line from marker to marker.
- The markers do not indicate the depth, size or number of pipelines in the ground.
- Pipeline markers are not used in every pipeline area. So, the absence of pipeline markers does not mean a gas pipeline is not present.



#### MARKER 1:

This sign is 4 inches wide and 4 feet high. The word, WARNING is followed by the words GAS PIPELINE. Except for heavily developed areas, the letters are at least 1 inch high with a 1/4 inch stroke. Socorro Natural Gas Company's name and 24-hour contact number are also included.



#### MARKERS 2 & 3:

These markers are 12in" by 12inches in size. They are placed at all regulator stations.



It is a federal crime to deface, damage, remove or destroy any pipeline marker. Please report any pipeline emergency or damage immediately by calling Socorro Natural Gas Company at 1 (575-835-0240).



## General Gas Safety Tips

- When weather proofing your home, do not cover your gas appliances' sources of fresh air.
- Make sure that all natural gas appliances are properly vented outside. Be sure the ventilation ducts are sealed to ensure gas is vented outside.
- Keep appliance surfaces free of dust and grease. Make sure appliance doors and furnace access panels are in their proper place.
- Keep flammable materials: curtains, paper, cleaning products, paints, and rags away from furnace vents, gas appliances and hot surfaces.
- Do not use an oven or range burner for heat.
- Have your furnace serviced by a professional at least every other year.

## What to Do if You Smell Gas

Natural gas smells similar to rotten eggs.

Teach everyone in your family to take these steps if they smell gas

### IF THE ODOR IS SLIGHT

- Quickly check if range burner or pilot light is out

### IF THE ODOR IS STRONG

- Do not use the telephone
- Do not turn light switches on or off
- Do not light matches
- Leave the house
- Call City of Socorro-Gas Department Immediately from nearest phone away from house

**575-835-0240**

or after 4pm call 911

## Carbon Monoxide Problems

Carbon monoxide (CO) is odorless, colorless and tasteless, but can cause illness and even death.

### THE FIRST SYMPTOMS ARE:

flu-like headaches, nausea, drowsiness or ringing in the ears.

Be suspicious if these symptoms are present in the entire family at the same time or occur only when you're at home.

To avoid the health hazard, regularly check your appliances for these signs of incomplete combustion:

- Frequent pilot light outages
- A yellow flame instead of a bright blue one
- Corrosion on vent piping
- Soot around your furnace or water heater pilot lights
- Loose or cracked vent connections

## Possible Hazards

Possible hazards associated with an unintended release of natural gas from a pipeline include gas migrating near or inside a building, natural gas fires or natural gas explosions.

## Physical indications of possible gas release

If you smell, hear or see the following, it could mean that there is an unintended release of natural gas:

- Smell of a "rotten egg" odor
- Flames burning above, or coming from the ground
- Dead/discolored vegetation in the midst of green vegetation
- Dirt blowing from a hole in the ground
- A dry patch in a damp field
- Water bubbling or blowing into the air at a body of water
- A rainbow sheen on water
- A white vapor cloud
- A frozen area on the ground

## Steps to be taken for public safety

If you suspect that there may be a natural gas leak:

- Leave the house, building and nearby area **IMMEDIATELY**
- Evacuate upwind, and advise others to stay away
- Don't turn lights on or off
- Don't use any type of electronic device
- Don't use your home phone to make calls from inside, or near the house, building or immediate vicinity
- Don't close windows or doors. Leave them open while exiting, which will allow gas to travel outside the house or building
- Don't light a match or anything else that could cause a spark

## Procedure to report such an event

Call immediately to report the leak when you are a safe distance from the suspected leak.



**Protect Yourself and Your Family**



## City of Socorro Natural Gas Company

111 School of Mines Rd.  
Socorro, NM 87801

**1-575-835-0240**

1-575-835-2490

## Call Before You Dig

We don't expect that customers know exactly where all the underground utilities are located. However, when planning a project (small or large) for which excavation is required, it is state law that the project planner request that utilities be located. To simplify this process Socorro Natural Gas Company joined the New Mexico one call notification system:

### New Mexico One Call (NMOC)

Whether you're digging a few inches or several feet, the law requires you to call 811 before you dig - **IT'S FREE AND IT'S THE LAW.**

Call just two working days before a dig and NMOC operators will notify member facility owners affected by your planned project to "clear" the area if no underground utilities are present or mark underground pipelines within two working days.

### Contact 811 by Phone or Online

For locate requests call:

**811 or 1-800-321-ALERT (2537)**

New Mexico One Call operators take routine line location requests from 7am to 5pm weekdays.

If you have an

**Emergency request call (866) 344-6662**

### Make a request online

You may also request a line spot 24 hours a day using New Mexico One Call's

[www.nm811.org/portal-transition](http://www.nm811.org/portal-transition)

to fill our online request form.

Your request will be process the following business day.



**IT'S FREE AND IT'S THE LAW**

**nm811**

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

**Call 811**

SOCORRO NATURAL GAS COMPANY

**575-835-0240**

Monday-Friday 8am-4pm  
or after hours or holiday call 911

Wait for Socorro Natural Gas Company to inform you that it is safe to return to your house, building or property.