

Pipeline Safety for School Bus Drivers

Did you know? Over 2.3 million miles of pipelines crisscross the United States, transporting gas and hazardous liquids. Annually, nearly 500,000 school buses travel over 4.3 billion miles, serving over 26 million school-aged children. The average school bus transports 54 student passengers. Many of the miles school bus drivers travel are on roads running parallel to pipeline right-of-ways.

School bus drivers travel over and in close proximity to high-pressure pipelines every day; these drivers are the eyes and ears of our communities. They traverse many areas, both urban and rural, and they carry priceless cargo. In the event of a pipeline breach, bus drivers can play a pivotal role in protecting the children in their charge. To do this, an understanding of basic pipeline safety is of paramount importance to these pupil transportation workers.



The School Pipeline Safety Partnership is a pipeline education program specifically designed to provide safety information and guidance to school administrators, school safety officials, transportation directors and bus drivers, and other school staff at campuses located near underground pipelines. The program is a collaboration of two nonprofit organizations, the Pipeline Association for Public Awareness and the Danielle Dawn Smalley Foundation and is sponsored by local pipeline companies.

The program website, www.SchoolPipelineSafety.org has valuable information and emergency planning resources for bus drivers located under the "Transportation Directors" tab. You can also contact us for additional information and support by emailing info@SchoolPipelineSafety.org or calling 866-401-2800

Where Are Pipelines Located?

Because most pipelines are underground, pipeline markers are used to show their approximate location at numerous points along their route. These markers are required to list the commodity being transported, the name of the pipeline operator, and a telephone number where a company representative can be reached 24-hours a day.

Though helpful, pipeline markers and indicators provide limited information. Pipeline markers should not be used to determine the exact position of a pipeline. They are placed near the pipeline, but not necessarily on top of them. Pipelines may not follow a straight line between adjacent markers. Furthermore, pipeline markers don't provide information on the depth, size, or number of pipelines traveling the same route.

Contact the pipeline operator or call 811 if you need the exact location of a pipeline.





Call Before You Dig!

Ensure your safety and the safety of your community by protecting underground utilities and pipelines from damage caused by digging. Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job.

The depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area. You can now dial 811 from anywhere in the country to contact your local One-Call Center at least 48 hours before digging. The One-Call Center will identify operators with underground facilities in the area you plan to dig. The operators will then come and locate and mark their lines.

How Do You Recognize a Pipeline Leak?

Pipeline leaks are dangerous and warrant cautious and immediate action to avoid loss of life and damage to property or the environment. Your sense of **Sight**, **Sound**, and **Smell** may be helpful in detecting the leak.

Sight Most hazardous liquid pipeline leaks can be detected visually. A leak may appear as an accumulation of material on the ground (a puddle) on top of or near the pipeline. Certain products will vaporize when released and can be seen as a mist or dense cloud originating near the damaged pipeline. For liquid and gas pipelines, an area of dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green pipeline right-of-way may indicate a leak. If a leaking pipeline product has ignited, flames are the most obvious sign of a pipeline emergency.

Sound A high-pressure pipeline leak may be detected by a hissing or roaring sound

Smell Some pipelines have an odorant added to give off a distinctive smell. Any sulphur-like or petroleum odor in the area of a gas or hazardous liquid pipeline may indicate a leak.

A New Danger!

The world changed for America on September 11, 2001. We became fully aware of our vulnerabilities as a people and as a nation. One of the areas of greatest vulnerability is an attack upon our critical energy pipelines. These pipelines carry highly combustible chemicals and gases. It is estimated that pipelines carry 25% of the nation's total freight and 70% of our petroleum fuel supplies.

Terrorist attacks upon this critical infrastructure of the country could seriously affect our safety and way of life. In many areas we are woefully unprepared to deal with threats to our pipelines.

It is imperative that school bus drivers know how to deal safely with these possibilities; they must keep vigilant watch for suspicious activities or behaviors and report problems and/or take appropriate actions.



Understand Your Role in Responding to a Pipeline Emergency

In the event of a pipeline leak near a school facility, school bus drivers may be called upon to evacuate students from the leak area. It is helpful to become familiar with pipeline right-of-ways in your school district in order to:

- Follow school evacuation procedures, but be vigilant
- Do not drive into leak area
- Stay upwind



You Discover a Leak, Now What?

- Refrain from any activities that could cause heat or sparks
- Notify 9-1-1 and call the pipeline company after you clear the danger area
- Leave the area immediately on foot
- Warn others in the area if they are present
- Light a match, start an engine, switch electrical equipment (including lights) on or off or use a telephone in the leak area
- Contact any escaping material; some products are toxic and/or corrosive
- Turn any machinery on or off
- Drive into a vapor cloud

Don't