



Keep Clear of Right of Way Corridors

Fosston Municipal Utilities inspects the right of way corridors that help maintain the integrity and safety of natural gas pipelines. A right of way is a strip of land in which some of the property owner's legal rights have been granted to another. A right of way agreement, called an "easement," allows a company to construct, operate, repair and maintain facilities on the property. Easements are usually filed as a public record with property deeds.

Right of way must be kept free of structures and other obstructions. Never dig without first calling the One-Call notification system, 811.

To ensure pipeline integrity:

- Do not erect buildings or structures, or plant trees or other obstructions on the pipeline rights of way.
- Do not excavate, change the grade, impede or alter the flow of water within the rights of way without Fosston Municipal Utilities's permission.
- Do not move heavy equipment across the rights of way and avoid blasting within 1,000 feet of the pipeline without approval from Fosston Municipal Utilities.

Protecting the Pipelines

Fosston Municipal Utilities is committed to the safe, reliable and environmentally sound operation of its natural gas pipeline system. But all of us - pipeline operators, contractors, landowners and neighbors - have a responsibility to make sure this valuable natural resource is delivered efficiently and safely.

The natural gas pipeline network that crisscrosses the United States is one of the world's safest modes of fuel transportation. To keep the network safe, each year the industry spends millions of dollars on research and technology.

The Pipeline Safety Improvement Act requires pipeline owners to conduct risk-analysis programs on distribution and transmission pipeline systems. These programs ensure that pipelines comply with U.S. Department of Transportation regulations. The federal government requires operators to assess natural gas pipelines regularly and to act to prevent leaks and ruptures, especially in populous areas.

Pipeline Markers Indicate Underground Facilities

Since natural gas pipelines are underground, line markers are used to indicate their approximate location. Markers are general, not exact, locators.

Markers do not tell how deep a pipeline is buried, nor do they necessarily indicate the number of underground lines. Pipelines do not always follow a straight course between two markers, so never rely solely on the presence or absence of pipeline markers. It is a federal crime to willfully deface, damage, remove or destroy a pipeline marker.



Checking for Corrosion

Throughout the year, Fosston Municipal Utilities performs a variety of inspection and maintenance activities as part of our on-going commitment to pipeline safety. One of the tasks that you may see our representatives perform is the inspection of outside metering equipment to look for atmospheric corrosion. If your equipment is accessible, no appointment is necessary. We'll notify you when we're working in the area. You don't need to be present for the inspection.

In the unlikely event that we discover a problem, we will contact you with the details of our findings.

Trust Your Senses

Outside or in, detecting a natural gas leak can be done with the help of your senses.

Secure Your Yard

Please help us ensure the safety of your neighborhood and our employees who are there to serve you. When our service representative is in your neighborhood, please confine your pets and clear any obstacles such as toys, tools, or vehicles near service areas. Keeping yards secure and accessible helps us work quickly, safely, and reliably for you. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us serve the community.

Stop, Observe, Report

If you see unusual or suspicious activity near a natural gas pipeline or other company facility, please report it so we can protect our vital infrastructure.

Call Fosston Municipal Utilities at **218-435-1737** report it. In an emergency, always call **911** first.

Call Before You Dig

Excavation work is the leading cause of damage to natural gas lines and other underground utility facilities.

State law requires excavators, contractors and property owners, to contact the state's One-Call system by dialing **8-1-1** (or **1-800-252-1166**), at least **TWO BUSINESS DAYS** before digging, to avoid costly damage to underground utility lines. This is a **FREE** service.

Excavation near buried gas pipelines should be done by hand.



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



Trust your SMELL

A familiar odor like rotten eggs is often added to the natural gas.



Trust your SIGHT

Blowing dirt, bubbling water or an unusual area of dead vegetation are all signs of a gas leak.



Trust your HEARING

A leaking pipeline might also make a hissing sound you can hear.

Suspect a natural gas leak?

WALK AWAY, RIGHT AWAY. Once clear of the area, call Fosston Municipal Utilities at **218-435-1737**. Call **911** in an emergency.

DO NOT light a match, operate light switches, appliance, engines, or any other potential source of ignition.

KEEP other people out of the area until help arrives.

The System That Delivers Gas Service

