

Chanute Municipal Gas System

Gas System Purpose and Reliability

The City of Chanute owns, maintains and operates a natural gas distribution system designed to serve the entire public in its service area in a safe, efficient manner. The purpose of this system is to provide the public, both residential and commercial enterprises, with a safe, secure, clean and reliable source of energy for a variety of uses.

The City of Chanute distributes natural gas to approximately 4,500 customers through 93 miles of steel, ductile iron and polyethylene main pipelines. The system is inspected by the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Pipeline Safety annually for compliance with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) pipeline safety regulations. Our pipelines are designed, installed, tested, operated and maintained according to strict standards employed by our company, the pipeline industry and the federal government.

Natural gas is most commonly used for cooking and heating. Natural gas also has many other uses, such as the generation of electricity. There are over 2.4 million miles of natural gas pipeline in the United States. According to National Transportation Safety Board statistics, pipelines are the safest method of transporting natural gas.

Public Awareness Program Objectives

- To educate our customers how to recognize the odor of natural gas and how to respond if they detect possible gas odors. Early recognition of a gas odor and proper response can save lives.
- To raise the awareness of the affected public and key stakeholders of the presence of buried natural gas pipelines in the communities we serve. A more informed public will also understand what steps that they can take to prevent third party damage and respond properly if they cause damage to our pipelines.
- To help excavators understand the steps that they can take to prevent third party damage and respond properly if they cause damage to our pipelines.
- To educate the public on the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning and the appropriate treatment should CO poisoning be suspected.
- To educate the public about the protection of gas meters from damage by falling objects or other hazards.

Potential Hazards of Natural Gas Leaks

Natural Gas is lighter than air and will generally rise and dissipate. Natural Gas may gather in a confined space and travel to a source of ignition. Will be easily ignited by heat, sparks or flames and will form explosive mixtures with air. Vapors may cause dizziness or asphyxiation without warning and may be toxic if inhaled at high concentrations. Buried gas lines can leak from corrosion, breakage from ground movement, damaged by contact while digging or excavating or other reasons unknown. Our qualified technician survey all services to the structure and all distribution mains to detect any leaks as well as inspecting steel services and mains for corrosive environments to prevent leaks. Gas personnel are on stand-by to address emergencies at all times if needed.

Understand the signs of a pipeline leak

Because of the stringent maintenance and inspection procedures employed by the City of Chanute and the pipeline industry, failures of pipeline systems are very rare. However, please remember that any pipeline leak can be potentially dangerous. You should be aware of the possible signs of a pipeline leak:

- **Sound:** A quiet hissing to a loud roar depending on the size of the leak and pressure of the main or service.
- **Sight:** Discolored or abnormally dry soil, dead or discolored plants in an otherwise healthy area of vegetation, continuous bubbling in wet or flooded areas, dust blowing from a hole in the ground or flames if the leak has ignited can be indicative of a pipeline leak.
- **Smell:** An unusual smell, petroleum odor, or gaseous odor will sometimes accompany pipeline leaks. Natural gas is colorless and odorless so an odorant or Mercaptan (rotten egg type smell) is added to detect a leak by smell.

Act immediately if you suspect a leak

Many pipelines contain colorless and odorless products that are highly flammable. If you recognize any of the signs listed above you should:

- If possible, eliminate any source of ignition
- Do not smoke. Do not use lighters or matches
- Do not turn off/on any switches or appliances
- Do not use a phone or cell phone
- Leave the area and go to a safe location to contact emergency response personnel.
- Contact the City of Chanute during working hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 620-431-5250
- Emergency personnel are on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week at 620-431-5270 or call 911

Want to learn more about pipelines operating in your community?

Visit the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) on the internet at www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov. This website provides a list of pipeline operators in your community as well as the location of the pipelines and other valuable information.

Damage Prevention - Public Notice

Call Before You Dig

- By law, Kansas Statute Annotated #66-1801 – 66-1815 requires anyone who engages in any type of excavation to provide underground facilities advance notice of at least two full working days, but not more than 15 calendar days, excluding weekends and holidays. Prior to any excavation, the excavator must notify the Kansas One-Call Center at 1-800-344-7233 or 811. This is to prevent accidentally digging into a gas line, or any other underground utility.
- This call is free and the call center stays open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Someone will ask you certain questions regarding the location of your planned excavation. A locate ticket will be issued to dig or excavate, 2 days after the day of your request. Ample time is given to each utility owner in the area to respond and accurately locate his or her utility.
- The Kansas One-Call law applies to everyone, including home owners who may be excavating for a flag pole installation, landscaping, or other excavation activities.
- Pipeline markers are placed at key locations along the pipeline and at road crossings, railroad crossings, etc.
- Our markers have phone numbers on them requesting excavators to call prior to digging in the area.

RED	RED-Electric Power lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables
YELLOW	YELLOW-Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous materials
ORANGE	ORANGE- Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit
BLUE	BLUE- Potable Water
GREEN	GREEN- Sewers and Drain Lines
PURPLE	PURPLE- Reclaimed Waters, Irrigation and Slurry Lines
PINK	PINK- Temporary Survey Markings
WHITE	WHITE- Proposed Excavation

Marking colors used by Utility Companies



In the event that any person "hits", "punctures", etc. a gas line, STOP ALL EQUIPMENT AND EVACUATE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY. Contact the City of Chanute Gas Department Emergency Number 911 or 620-431-5270 at once. Report even minor damage such as dents, scrapes or chips. **Do not cover the line until it has been inspected.**

Please Note: The notified facility/utility owners **will not** mark privately owned underground lines. These include but are not limited to; power or electric service, water and sewer pipes from the meter to your home, gas fuel branch lines, invisible fencing, sprinkler systems, well and septic systems, ect.

Meter Sets

Check your gas meter often to be sure there is no damage from falling limbs or other debris as well as snow or ice accumulation blocking the regulator vent. Always keep your meter clear from plants, shrubs and other obstacles for meter reading and maintenance by gas company personnel.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

All Natural gas appliances should be installed, maintained and vented by a licensed or qualified professional installer or service technician. Have your gas water heater, furnace and flue inspected periodically. Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless, deadly gas. It can kill you before you know it because you cannot see it or smell it. Carbon monoxide can be formed when your appliances are not burning or venting properly. Symptoms of CO Poisoning: Flu like symptoms - headaches - drowsiness- nausea - blurred vision. If you think you have CO poisoning, go outside into fresh air and if needed, get medical attention.

Natural Gas Appliance Flexible Connectors

A flex connector is the corrugated metal tubing used to bring gas from supply pipes to your appliance. Uncoated, brass connectors are dangerous and can cause a serious gas leak. It is very difficult to tell which connectors have a flaw in how they are joined to their end pieces. Replace them immediately with a stainless steel connector or plastic coated brass connector. Only a qualified professional should check your connector and replace it if needed. Don't try to do this yourself. Do not move your appliance to check the connector. Call the City of Chanute gas department to check it for leaks at **620-431-5250**.



For additional information contact the City of Chanute at 620-431-5250 or www.chanute.org/gas