

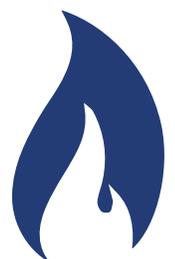
The South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) Pipeline Safety Department represents the public interest with regard to safety oversight for operators of natural gas distribution and transmission pipeline systems, liquefied natural gas facilities, certain liquefied propane systems, landfill gas systems, and lateral pipelines from interstate pipeline systems in South Carolina.

The ORS Pipeline Safety Inspectors perform on-site inspections to verify and enforce compliance with the US Department of Transportation's 49 CFR Pipeline Safety Regulations, as well as the Public Service Commission of South Carolina's (PSC) regulations governing gas system operators.

The Pipeline Safety Department also provides:

- Operator training and guidance
- Presentations to civic and industry groups or organizations
- Interpretational guidance
- Additional guidance in achieving full compliance with the regulations
- Regulatory code updates
- Support from participation in association and committee activities that enhance general pipeline safety efforts in the state and region

- The flammable range of gas in air is from a lower explosive limit (LEL) of about 4.5 percent to an upper explosive limit (UEL) of about 14.5 percent.
- The natural gas we use every day contains about 92 percent methane, which is very similar to gas emitted and re-captured from old landfills.
- Natural gas is colorless, odorless, and non-toxic when it is extracted from the ground, but it has a harmless chemical added to it that smells like rotten eggs so that it is readily detectable.
- Natural gas is lighter than air; therefore it will rise (or vent) to the utmost area possible.



Damage Prevention Initiative

The South Carolina Damage Prevention Initiative informs contractors and excavators about state and federal natural gas laws pertaining to contractor responsibility, damages, and associated penalties.

Overall, natural gas operators have achieved an impressive safety record, providing natural gas service to millions of customers safely and efficiently. Aware of the potential hazards associated with their product, the operators are very knowledgeable concerning both safety precautions and operations and maintenance requirements that constantly must be observed. Many organizations, volunteer groups, and associations -- along with state and federal regulators -- contribute to the success of the natural gas industry.



Most gas-related incidents result from damage to buried pipelines during excavation activities. Known as "third-party damage," this type of excavation incident is the leading cause of pipeline damage nationwide and in South Carolina. One-call programs, such as that provided by South Carolina and 811, are a valuable prevention tool. *Anyone planning to dig, excavate, bore, tunnel, blast, or disturb the earth in any manner in which buried utilities may be damaged must call SC811 by dialing 811. It is a state law (SC Code Ann. Sections 58-36-10 through 58-36-120).*



The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has designated 811 as the nationwide number to protect pipelines and utilities from excavation damage. **Learn more about 811 by visiting www.call811.com.**

The State of South Carolina has an agreement with The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) wherein all operators in the state must comply with regulatory guidelines. The Pipeline Safety Department undergoes annual re-certification by PHMSA. The Pipeline Safety Department is also a participant in the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR).

About ORS

The ORS is charged with representing the public interest of South Carolina in utility regulation for the major utility industries: electric, natural gas, telecommunications, transportation, and water/wastewater. The ORS represents the public interest with regard to the regulation of investor-owned utilities in South Carolina. Duties of the ORS encompass supervision of the provision of rates and services by all companies within the jurisdiction of the PSC.



1401 Main Street,
Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 737-0800

ORS.SC.GOV/safety/pipeline-safety