



Community Pipeline Safety Initiative

Frequently Asked Questions

Background

Every day, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) leads gas pipeline safety work across Northern and Central California to ensure that the millions of customers we serve have the safest and most reliable gas system in the nation. In addition to making sure that the pipeline is operating safely, in every community we also look at the area above and around the natural gas transmission pipelines to be certain that firefighters and our own emergency response crews have critical access to the pipeline in the event of an emergency or natural disaster.

Trees, bushes and structures located too close to the gas pipeline can threaten safety because they can block access during emergencies and can prevent our crews from performing important safety and maintenance work. PG&E is currently working with customers and community leaders to ensure any items located too close to the pipeline are moved a safe distance away and the area is restored. As always, we're listening to customers and the community to make sure that this work is done and done right.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where will PG&E be working as part of this community gas safety effort?

PG&E's 6,750-mile natural gas transmission pipeline system runs throughout the state of California. We are working with every community where our transmission pipeline runs to ensure that the area above and around the natural gas transmission pipeline is accessible in the event of an emergency.

How can I find out if a PG&E natural gas transmission pipeline runs under my property?

Most private properties do not have an underground transmission pipeline on them. You can find out if there is a natural gas transmission pipeline in your area by using PG&E's Gas Transmission Pipeline Map at pge.com/pipelinelocations. Property owners can also check by 1) reviewing a copy of their title report and looking for references to "PG&E," "utilities," "easements," "rights-of-way," "land use restrictions," or other similar language, 2) looking for upright yellow pipeline markers or flat medallions on the ground or sidewalk near their property, and by 3) contacting the PG&E Land Management Department at [1-877-259-8314](tel:1-877-259-8314).

Why are structures and trees located over the transmission pipeline a safety concern?

Certain trees, tree roots, brush and structures can threaten safety because they block firefighters' access during emergencies and can prevent our crews from performing important safety and maintenance work. Tree roots also pose a safety risk because they can damage the protective coating of underground pipelines—leading to corrosion and leaks. If you are concerned that a structure or tree is located over the pipeline in your community, please contact the PG&E Land Management Department at [1-877-259-8314](tel:1-877-259-8314).

What happens when PG&E finds structures or vegetation located too close to the pipeline?

If a structure or tree poses a safety concern, we will sit down with the property owner to review the safety risks, answer questions and develop a plan forward. We're absolutely committed to working together to create a common understanding about each other's needs so that we can reach a shared solution that ensures safety and the beauty of the communities we live in.

Who will pay for the cost of relocating structures, replacing trees and restoring the area?

As part of this program, when a structure or tree poses a safety concern, PG&E will pay to replace, relocate or provide reasonable replacements. The cost will be paid for by our shareholders, not our customers. In most cases, commercial property owners will be responsible for the removal of any incompatible items located above the pipeline. We will work with commercial property owners to determine the best course of action for each property. In the future, all property owners will be responsible for keeping the area above the pipeline readily accessible.



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Will PG&E pay for replacement trees and restoration?

Yes, trees matter to us and we know they matter to the customers and communities we proudly serve, which is why we are offering replacement trees as part of this program. In addition, we will work together with the property owner to identify the best options for restoring the area, including a variety of landscaping options.

What type of landscaping works well in the area above the pipeline?

Customers can play an important role in helping PG&E keep the gas system safe by taking care to choose the right plant for the right location on their property. Many types of low-lying vegetation work well in the area above the pipeline because they provide critical access to the pipeline in the event of an emergency. These plants include: flower beds, an assortment of lawns, grasses, mosses, low-growing herbaceous shrubs, vegetable gardens, row crops and other plants. Trees, large shrubs, and plants with a woody stem, such as manzanita and juniper bushes, should be planted at least 10 feet away from the gas pipeline, and 14 feet for larger trees. Customers are encouraged to contact PG&E at [1-877-259-8314](tel:1-877-259-8314) for more information.

What steps will PG&E take in the future to help ensure ready access to the pipeline?

Our commitment to safety is not just about today, it's about our future. It's about making sure our children and grandchildren have the safest neighborhoods in California and the nation for years to come. Going forward, as part of PG&E's regular inspections, we will be providing ongoing education, partnering with cities to build awareness around safe uses near critical infrastructure, and sharing information with property owners so they understand our shared responsibility to keep the area above the pipeline safe.

Is there an alternative to replacing trees located too close to the gas pipeline?

We know how important trees are to customers, our employees and the communities we serve. We want all of our customers to know that this gas safety work is truly necessary to keep the entire community safe. Trees or shrubs will only be replaced or moved when there is a potential threat to the community and public safety. In these cases, we will work very closely with property owners to restore the area and replace trees—all at PG&E's expense.

What is a pipeline right-of-way?

A right-of-way is an area of land above the pipeline that PG&E uses to safely operate the pipeline. Accessible rights-of-way, free of structures and certain vegetation, help to keep communities safe by ensuring critical access to the pipeline in the event of an emergency.

What is an easement?

Easement agreements are recorded documents that remain in effect when a property is transferred to new owners. An easement agreement includes language that restricts certain uses within the right-of-way and ensures PG&E's ability to access the area above the pipeline. The easement language can usually be found during a title search of documents related to the property, which can be obtained through the County Recorder's Office. PG&E can also help owners locate a copy of their agreement by contacting the PG&E Land Management Department at [1-877-259-8314](tel:1-877-259-8314).

How can people learn more about PG&E's pipeline safety programs?

To learn more about PG&E's community gas safety work, please visit pge.com/GasSafety or call the PG&E Land Management Department at [1-877-259-8314](tel:1-877-259-8314).