

HAZARDS AND THREATS

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS PIPELINE

EVALUATE: HOW TO DETERMINE IF A PIPELINE LEAK IS UNDER WAY

If you suspect a pipeline leak is under way, your first concern should be for your personal safety, and the safety of the people in the surrounding areas.

Your observation and your knowledge of the leak indications are the most important evaluation of the first response.

Sight

- Look for liquids that are pooling on the ground above the Pipeline Zone. Remember that not all products are liquid. Some are gases that can't be seen.
- Look for brown or discolored grasses or vegetation that would otherwise be green in color.
- Watch for vapor clouds or heat waves that are rising above the pipeline area.

Sound

- Listen for hissing, rumbling or roaring sounds that indicate the escape of pressurized liquids or gases from a pipeline in the area near the Right-of-Way Corridor.

Smell

- Odorants are added to gas to cause an odd and pungent odor within the pipeline. Gaseous products leaking from pipelines will generally have the odor of sulfur or rotten eggs. Be alert to any foul or unusual smells surrounding the area near any Pipeline Markers.

If you observe any of the above pipeline damage or leak indicators:

- Do not investigate further.

- Avoid all contact with any escaping liquids or gases.
- Leave the area immediately.
- Once you are in a safe area, call 8-1-1 for assistance.

For more information on petroleum and natural gas pipeline companies, please visit the following website addresses:

- Chevron Oil Company, <http://www.chevron.com>
- Shell Oil Company, <http://www.shell.us/pipeline>
- Tesoro Corporation, <http://www.tsocorp.com>

Sources: Chevron Pipeline Company, Pipeline Awareness Guide, Shell Oil Company Guide and Tesoro Corporation Information

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