



# Keeping the gas transmission pipeline safe

## Frequently asked questions

### General questions

#### **What is PG&E doing to keep its pipelines safe and clear?**

To help make sure gas pipelines provide safe service to the community, we regularly monitor the area above and around the pipe. We ensure the area remains clear of items that pose a safety concern, such as new structures or vegetation. To do this, we address items that are located too close to the pipe to ensure safety crews have emergency access.

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

When located too close to the pipeline, trees, brush and structures can block emergency access for safety crews or damage the pipe. Additionally, roots can damage the pipeline's protective coating which can lead to leaks. Customers who are concerned that an item or tree is located over the pipeline can call PG&E at **1-800-743-5000**.

#### **Why can't PG&E just move the pipe?**

Rerouting a pipeline is a major undertaking. It is very disruptive to the community and environment and can take several years to complete. By working together to address items that are too close to the pipeline and ensuring vegetation is planted at a safe distance, we can help ensure the pipe continues to provide safe and reliable gas service for years to come.

#### **What permits is PG&E getting for this work? Will PG&E apply for tree permits?**

PG&E works closely with cities and counties to share information about planned work and obtain any encroachment permits that may be required for this safety work. PG&E is not required to secure tree removal permits for work related to this safety program. We will obtain all ministerial encroachment permits and building permits associated with this work.

#### **How does PG&E decide which trees need to be removed and which can stay? What is the criteria?**

We understand how important trees are to our communities. That's why we take a close look at each tree near a pipeline. We work with our customers to only relocate or remove trees that pose a safety concern. If we find a newly planted tree near a pipeline, we check whether it is safe to stay in the area above and around the pipe. We determine this by following our vegetation standards and Guide to Safe Planting, which were developed based on recommendations from the U.S. Department of Transportation, including their Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. For more information on these recommendations, please see [pge.com/safelandscaping](https://pge.com/safelandscaping) or [phmsa.dot.gov](https://phmsa.dot.gov).

#### **How often will PG&E inspect the pipeline?**

We regularly inspect the area above gas pipelines throughout our service area. During inspections, we look for items and resprouted vegetation that are too close to the gas pipeline and pose a safety concern. It's important to note that we may conduct additional inspections throughout the year of gas pipelines to ensure the systems are operating safely.

## Questions about work on private property

### How can customers find out if they have a gas pipeline on or near their property?

Most private properties do not have an underground transmission pipeline on them. Customers can find out if there is a natural gas transmission pipeline in their area by calling PG&E at **1-800-743-5000** or searching our online gas transmission pipeline map at [pge.com/pipelinelocations](https://pge.com/pipelinelocations). In addition, a reference to a pipeline is typically included in the title report for a property. Customers may have also noticed pipeline markers that mark where the pipeline runs. These can be upright orange markers or flat medallions on the ground.

### Why were homes allowed to be built above a gas pipeline?

It's common for pipelines to run through urban areas. The system is built to ensure the delivery of safe and reliable gas service to customers living in these areas. Easements are put in place to ensure safe access to the pipeline for maintenance work and in case of emergencies. We will continue to inspect the gas pipeline as part of our routine maintenance work.

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## Questions about the environment

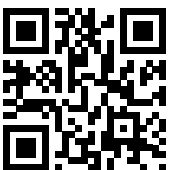
### What does PG&E's environmental review involve? How does PG&E protect wildlife?

Before we start work, we look for any critical habitat, endangered species, native plants or cultural resources that need protection. We do this by conducting a database search or a field visit. We are especially mindful of the nesting bird season from mid-February to August. During this time the team performs bird surveys for all projects and will postpone work if an active nest is identified.

### What kind of herbicide will PG&E use? How is it applied?

We typically use targeted applications of herbicides to prevent the regrowth of trees and brush. The product we will use has been approved for use by the State of California. Any application will be applied directly to the tree stump within 15 minutes of vegetation removal, per state guidelines, and be well below the per acre allowable limits. Any application will be carefully managed by a Pest Control Advisor licensed by the Department of Pesticide Regulations, a division of the California Environmental Protection Agency. If a property owner is uncomfortable with the use of herbicides on their property, we will not use them. We will continue to monitor the area around the pipe for any potential regrowth.

SCAN HERE



### Learn more

For more information about our gas vegetation safety efforts, please visit [pge.com/gasveg](https://pge.com/gasveg).