



# Community Pipeline Safety Initiative

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Background

Every day, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is working across Northern and Central California to build 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 first responders and 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 firefighters and PG&E crews from getting to the pipeline in an emergency and making it safe. PG&E is working with customers and community leaders to share what we know about the safety risks and, together, develop plans that ensure 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 help ensure that the area above and around the natural gas transmission pipeline is safely 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 calling PG&E at **1-877-259-8314**, or searching our online Gas Transmission Pipeline Map at [pge.com/pipelinelocations](http://pge.com/pipelinelocations). Property owners can also check by reviewing a copy of your title report and looking for references to "PG&E," "utilities," "easements," "rights-of-way," "land use restrictions," or other similar language. You can also look for upright yellow pipeline markers or flat medallions on the ground or sidewalk near your property.

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

Certain trees, tree roots, brush and structures can delay emergency access for first responders and prevent our crews from performing important safety and maintenance work. When located too close to the gas pipeline, these items can also damage the pipe. If you are concerned that a structure or tree is located over the pipeline in your community, please call PG&E at **1-877-259-8314**.

#### How does PG&E determine which trees pose a safety concern?

We understand how important trees are to our communities and the environment. Trees are important to us, too. That's why PG&E conducts an in-depth review of trees located within 14 feet of the gas pipeline to determine if the tree can remain in place with regular monitoring or if it needs to be replaced away from the pipe for safety reasons. The tree-by-tree review takes into consideration many important factors, such as the tree species, its expected size at full growth, its distance from the pipe, and the ability of first responders to safely access the pipe in an emergency.

#### What happens when PG&E finds a tree or structure located too close to the pipeline?

If a structure or tree is located too close to the gas pipeline and poses a safety concern, we will work closely 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 the safety and beauty of the communities we live in.

### **Who will pay for the cost of relocating structures and replacing trees?**

As part of this program, when a structure or tree poses a safety concern, PG&E will pay to replace or relocate the item. The cost will be paid for by our shareholders, not our customers. In the future, all property owners will be responsible for keeping the area above the pipeline safe and clear.

### **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. That's why we are offering replacement trees at our expense 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 that are safe for the area around the pipeline, all at PG&E's expense.

### **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 and surrounding community safe by taking care to choose the right plant for the right location on their property. Many types of low-lying plants and shrubs 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, PG&E is committed to 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 and clear.

### **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 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. Keeping the area above the pipeline free of structures and certain trees helps to keep communities safe by helping ensure 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. Property owners can also contact PG&E at [1-877-259-8314](tel:1-877-259-8314) for help locating a copy of their agreement.

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

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