The purpose of this brochure is to assist excavators in the proper identification of natural gas pipelines in Southwest Gas service areas and safe practices when excavating around natural gas pipelines. The information provided here may not be all inclusive. For positive pipe identification and proper safe pipeline practices, please contact Southwest Gas.

**Natural Gas Safety Rules**

**Pipe Identification & Safe Pipeline Practices**

The diagram is coded to the color of paint used during the line location of the utilities.

**Damaged or Broken Pipelines**
Leave the area immediately and call 911 and Southwest Gas at 1-877-860-6020 from a safe location.

**Pipeline Information**
Southwest Gas offers free pipeline safety and damage prevention workshops for excavators and contractors. Call 800-654-2765 for more information.

**Excavating**
Hand dig 24” from each side of locate mark plus pipe size. Do NOT dig directly over the top of the facility. Dig parallel to and to the side of the facility. Make your excavation large enough to avoid contact with the facility.

**Blasting**
Call Southwest Gas before blasting. Southwest Gas must leak survey all pipelines located within 250’ of any blasting before and after the blasting activity. There is no charge for this service.

**Backfill**
Backfill material must be 3” minus material used for the first 6” above the shading followed by suitable compactable material for the remaining lift (12” max per lift).

**Underground Warning Tape**
Must be installed above the gas line/sleeving (open trench only) and in the backfill material. It’s recommended that it be installed in the last lift of the backfill. Repair/extend tape by tying ends together.

**Padding & Shading**
The material must be able to sift through a 3/8” screen, be relatively smooth, and be relatively rock free. Must have 6” above pipe and only 6” below pipe. A minimum distance must be maintained from the following:
- 1” from side trench
- 12” from Phone/TV/Water
- 12” from (above) Electric/Sewer

**Casing/Sleeving**
- Must not come in contact with other underground facilities
- Newly installed sleeving material should be yellow plastic pipe (either PE or PVC) marked “Natural Gas Sleeving” or may be steel if specified by Southwest Gas Engineering
- Sleeving material must be large enough to accommodate the carrier pipe and any additional components that may accompany the carrier pipe
- For more information about proper installation procedures call Southwest Gas 877-860-6020
Most types of plastic pipe have a print line that indicates the pipe is used for transporting natural gas. A print line reading GAS USE ONLY, GAS or FOR GAS ONLY is frequently found on underground gas pipe.