

## PHILLIPS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



### Pipelines

The energy transportation network of the United States consists of over 2.5 million miles of pipelines. That's enough to circle the earth about 100 times. These pipelines are operated by approximately 3,000 companies, large and small.

Although pipelines exist in all fifty states, most of us are unaware that this vast network even exists. This is due to the strong safety record of pipelines and the fact that most of them are located underground. Installing pipelines underground protects them from damage and helps protect our communities as well.

Most hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines are located underground in rights-of-way (ROW). A ROW consists of consecutive property easements acquired by, or granted to, the pipeline company.

Emergency Management is more than writing response plans or requesting state assistance when disaster strikes. It is about building connections long before an emergency ever occurs.

Strong communities are not defined by having the most equipment or the thickest plans. **They are defined by relationships—by people who know and trust one another.** Communities where the police chief and fire chief sit down for coffee, where plans are not just words on paper but living partnerships.

Most failures during crises are not the result of poor tactics or missing plans, but of misalignment. Disasters test more than emergency responders; they test the entire community. **They are a test of culture, not just capability.** Can we work together toward a shared outcome? Can we set aside ego, compromise when needed, empower others to make decisions, and then stand behind them?

Emergency Management is not one person in an office, and it is not limited to first responders. Churches and volunteer organizations are often the backbone of a community's disaster response and recovery. Long before outside resources arrive, these groups already have trusted relationships, local knowledge, and a spirit of service that allows them to act quickly and effectively. They provide shelter, food, childcare, transportation, emotional support, and a place for people to gather when everything else feels uncertain. Because they are rooted in the community, they can identify needs that may otherwise go unnoticed and reach vulnerable populations more easily than formal agencies alone. In many cases, the strength of a community's recovery depends less on equipment and more on the compassion, organization, and willingness of these groups to step forward and help their neighbors.

**WARNING**  
**NATURAL GAS PIPELINE**  
BEFORE DIGGING CALL 811  
FOR AN EMERGENCY CALL  
888-XXX-XXXX  
ABC PIPELINE COMPANY

The words, "Warning," "Danger" or "Caution"

The name of the material being transported

An emergency phone number

The name of the pipeline operator

**DID YOU KNOW**

Aboveground signs and markers identify the approximate location of underground pipelines. Pipeline markers may look different but every sign tells you the same information: Pipeline Product, Pipeline Operator, & 24-hour Emergency Phone Number

**WARNING GAS**

811

Address: 205 F. Street, Suite 110,  
Phillipsburg KS  
Office: 785-540-4262  
CP: 785-302-0850  
Email: pcem@phillipscountyem.com

**Did you know?**

**Fire is fast. Flashover-the point when all contents ignite-can occur in under 3-4 minutes.**

**Fire growth is exponential doubling in size roughly every 30-60 seconds.**



The fire triangle explains that fire needs three things to exist: Heat, Fuel, and Oxygen. Removing any one of these elements will extinguish the fire. Heat provides the energy to ignite, fuel is any combustible material (wood, paper, etc.) and oxygen supports the chemical reaction of burning.

## Anatomy of a Wildfire



## Wildfire Terms

**Point of Origin:** exact physical location where the fire started

**Heel:** Opposite of the head, slowest spreading portion of fire edge; the place where most fire tactics begin

**Head:** Most rapidly spreading portion of a fire's perimeter, usually progressing with the wind, upslope or a combination of the two, usually the highest fire intensity.

**Finger:** Long, narrow extensions of a fire projecting from the main body.

**Pocket:** Unburned indentations on the fire's edge formed by fingers or slow burning areas. May cause control problems when fire creeps into the fuel.

**Spot Fire:** Fire ignited outside the perimeter of the main fire by a firebrand (ember) indicator that fire behavior is increasing.

**Island:** an unburned area within a fire perimeter. May cause spotting or more smoke.

**Fire Perimeter:** Entire outer edge or boundary of a fire (including spot fires).

