**Gas Distribution System**

**Public Awareness Message**

Lancaster Park

47455 Division Street

Lancaster, CA 93535

The natural gas pipeline system at Lancaster Park is owned, operated and/or maintained by the owner of the property. The pipeline system is designed to distribute gas to the residents, which is commonly used for heating and cooking. The laundry room facility at the mobile home park also uses the gas distributing system for the hot water heater that services the laundry machines.

The gas pipeline system is operated and maintained by qualified individuals in accordance with the Operator’s Operations and Maintenance Plan, which contains procedures for safely operating, maintaining, and monitoring the system. The California Public Utilities Commission inspects the gas pipeline system for compliance with the Federal rules and regulations.

**Hazard & Preventative Measures**

Gas can leak from pipeline facilities damages due to corrosion, outside force, environmental factors, natural events, or equipment failure, etc. Because natural gas is a flammable commodity, gas leaks, under certain circumstances, can be dangerous.

The gas system is leak surveyed by qualified individuals on a frequency of “operator’s frequency” years. By law, under no circumstance can we exceed a period of 5 years without performing a leak survey. We are required to immediately repair all hazardous leaks, and schedule for repair, or monitor, all leaks which are non-hazardous. Leaks in confined spaces and leaks immediately near sources of ignition are generally classified as hazardous leaks. All valves necessary to isolate the system, or parts of the system, ae inspected annually to ensure that hazardous conditions such as atmospheric corrosion, improper care of discontinued services and customer lines, inadequate support of meters and pipeline components, etc., are noted and corrected.

**Pipeline Damage & Prevention**

The gas pipeline system is susceptible to damage due to outside forces such as those caused by excavation, vehicular traffic, or excessive loads placed on meter set assemblies. In addition, anything that obstructs access to main valves and service valves on meter set assemblies could result in severe consequences in the event of an emergency.

The greatest risk to underground gas pipeline is damage caused during excavation. Even a minor impact with the pipeline could cause a dent or damage to its coating, resulting in a leak. Notify the property owner or manager before you dig. Do not park vehicles near gas meters or pipelines that are not protected by barriers. Do not remove meter supports or place heavy items on top of the meter set assemblies. Do not restrict access to main valve or meter set assemblies.

Residents should notify the property owner or manager of gas meters that are vulnerable to vehicle damage or need supports, and of any other potential hazards that may be noticed.

**Recognize & Respond to a Propane Leak**

There are several ways to recognize a gas leak:

* Odor: natural gas is colorless, odorless, tasteless and non-toxic. An additive (Mercaptan) is added by the gas company to give the gas a distinctive odor (similar to rotting eggs or sulfur) so any leaking gas can be readily detected.
* Vegetation: natural gas leaking from an underground pipeline can destroy vegetation by starving the roots of air and water. An unusual dry patch of vegetation, within an otherwise green area, could indicate a below ground gas leak.
* Sound: a blowing or hissing sound could indicate the presence of a gas leak.
* Bubbling water: gas leaks on underground pipelines in flooded areas may cause bubbles in the water as the gas rises to the surface.
* Fungus-like growth: gas leaks in valve boxes, manholes, etc. may develop a fungus-like growth that is generally white in color.

Do not light items such as matches, cigarettes, or any other device that may generate a spark and ignite gas in a gaseous environment. Devices such as electrical switches, telephones (cell & land line phones), doorbells, automobiles, other engines, static electricity, etc. can all generate a spark capable of ignition. Extinguish all flames, evacuate occupants of the structure, and possible neighboring structures, to a safe distance, and turn off the gas at the service valve, if feasible. Venting of the gas should consider gas concentration and the need to terminate electric, telephone and other sources of ignition from their respective service connection points outside the structure. To report a gas leak, call (661) 723-0077 and inform Operator personnel of the situation and the location of the leak. Do not make the phone call from the area where the gas leak is present.

For additional information, contact the owner, the operator of the gas system, at (661) 723-0077. Also, visit the websites of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (<http://www.phmsa.dot.gov>) or the California Public Utilities Commission (<http://cpuc.ca.gov/puc/>).