



To: All KMPUD Customers

February 2018

Public Awareness Message Propane Gas Systems

1. PURPOSE AND RELIABILITY OF THE PROPANE PIPELINE

The propane pipeline system in Kirkwood is owned, operated and maintained by the Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District (District). The pipeline system is designed to distribute propane to the customers, which is commonly used for heating and cooking. The District's pipeline system runs underground from a bulk distribution plant on Loop Road and extends to the property line of connected properties.

The District's responsibility is limited to its transmission pipelines and facilities. Service laterals are the responsibility of the District from the transmission pipeline to the property line of each retail service customer. The property owner is responsible for maintenance and protection of any and all pipelines or facilities located on the retail service customer's property. Meters are maintained by the District, while meter protection is the responsibility of the property owner.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE HAZARDS OF THE PIPELINE AND PREVENTION MEASURES USED

Propane can leak from pipeline facilities damaged due to corrosion, outside force, natural events, or equipment failure, etc. Because propane is a flammable commodity, propane leaks, under certain circumstances, have the potential to cause harm.

The District's propane system is leak-surveyed every five years. All hazardous leaks are repaired. All main valves are inspected annually to ensure they are operable. The propane system is patrolled on a routine basis to ensure that hazardous conditions such as atmospheric corrosion, improper care of discontinued services and exterior customer lines, inadequate support of meters and pipeline components, etc. are noted and corrected. Potentially hazardous conditions on customer-owned lines and equipment are referred to the property owners for correction, when discovered. There is a cathodic protection system that protects the steel pipe in the system from corroding, and this system is also monitored regularly to ensure its effectiveness. District-owned steel pipe is limited to the liquid lines at the bulk distribution plant on Loop Road.

3. INFORMATION ABOUT DAMAGE PREVENTION

The propane pipeline system is susceptible to damage due to outside forces such as those caused by excavation, vehicular traffic, or excessive loads placed on meter assemblies. The main source of excessive loads on meters in the Kirkwood Community is snow and ice. Snow and ice buildup on customer-owned above ground equipment, such as risers, pipes, regulators and valves can cause excessive loads on these components which can lead to dangerous leaks or equipment failures. Please take measures to protect your propane service and keep the meter and all associated equipment clear of snow and ice at all times.

The greatest risk to underground propane pipelines 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 District and other utilities before you dig by calling USA NORTH at 811/1-800-227-2600.**

In addition, restricted access to main valves and meter set assemblies could result in severe consequences in the event of an emergency. Do not park vehicles near propane meters or pipelines that are not protected by barriers. Do not remove meter supports or place heavy items on top of meter set assemblies. Do not allow snow and ice to build up on or around meter set assemblies or meter sheds.

Please notify the District of propane meters that are vulnerable to vehicular damage or in need of supports. Residents should also notify the District of any other potential hazards they notice.

4. HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND TO A LEAK

Odor: Propane is colorless, odorless, tasteless and non-toxic. An additive (Mercaptan) in the propane gives it a distinctive odor (similar to rotting eggs or sulfur).

Vegetation: Propane 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 propane leak.

Sound: A blowing or hissing sound could indicate the presence of a propane leak.

Fungus-like growth: Propane leaks in valve boxes, manholes, etc. may develop a fungus-like growth that is white in color.

Do not light items such as matches or cigarettes, or use any device that may generate a spark such as electrical switches, telephones (cell and land line phones), doorbells, automobiles or other engines, etc. Extinguish all flames, evacuate the building to a safe distance, and turn off propane if feasible. To report a propane leak, **call 209-258-4444, or after hours 209-296-8668** and inform appropriate qualified personnel of the situation and the location of the leak. Do not make the phone call from the area where the propane leak is present.

5. HOW TO GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, contact the District at 209-258-4444. 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://www.cpuc.ca.gov/puc/>).