



Marine Pipeline Safety

Awareness and Damage Prevention

 **Port Of
South Louisiana**
TRANSPORTATION CENTER OF THE AMERICAS

www.portsl.com



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



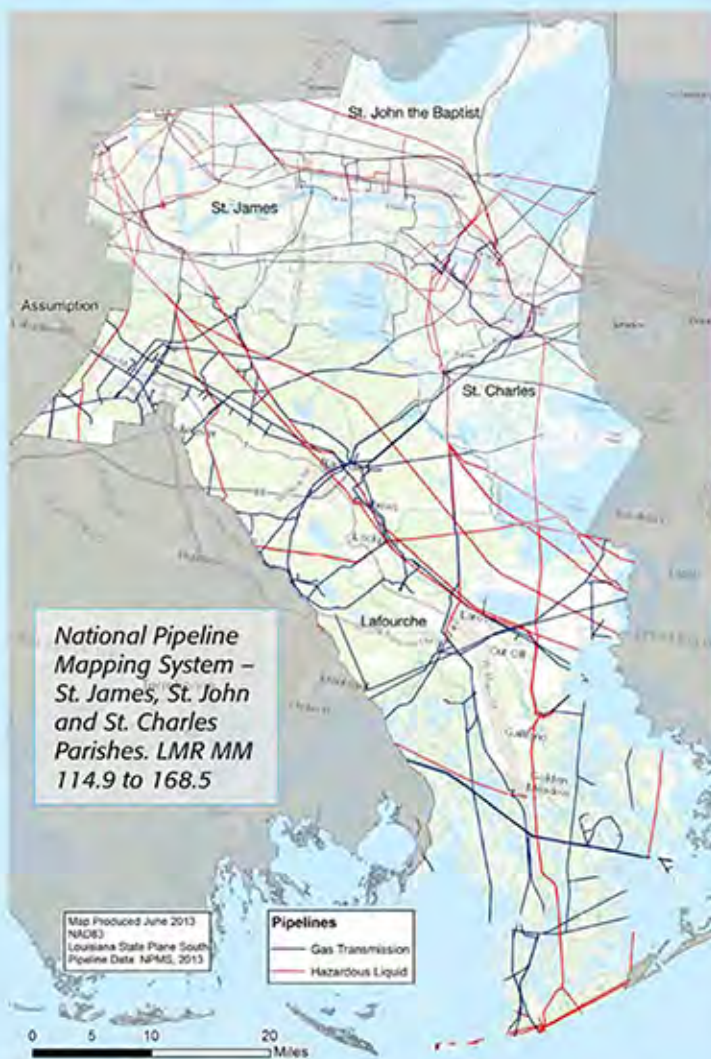
Pipeline safety is a shared responsibility.





Pipeline strikes are all-too-frequent occurrences causing loss of life, damage to property and immense harm to the environment. The threat of striking a submerged pipeline is one that all mariners face, and statistics illustrate the danger. In a 20-year period, 118 pipeline strikes were reported. These incidents resulted in 25 fatalities and 17 injuries. The environmental impact was devastating, with more than 100,000 barrels of oil spilled and property damage

in the hundreds of million dollars. Sadly, all were incidents that could have been prevented.



Pipelines are arteries that transfer crude oil and natural gas from wells on land and offshore to refineries and chemical plants, where it becomes fuel, chemicals and other products used by every American each and every day. This pipeline infrastructure is critical to fueling America's industries and to our nation's prosperity. A map of the pipeline infrastructure shows the connection to more than 4,000 platforms and over 33,000 active wells in the Gulf of Mexico and Mississippi River Region. It's a graphic example of the enormity of the network.

The major **hazards** most identified with pipeline damage along the Lower Mississippi River may include the following: anchoring, dredging, barge strikes (including spudding), vessel collisions, mooring, wheel washing and possibly deliberate man made threats. While the major **consequences** to humans, wildlife and the environment associated with a pipeline strike may include contaminated water supply, as all three parishes within the Ports' Jurisdiction rely on the Lower Mississippi for their water supply. There are a multitude of animal habitats along the river battures of the Lower Mississippi River. **Secondary Consequences:** There are a number of regulated facilities within the Port of South Louisiana that have water intakes for cooling purposes, namely the Waterford III Nuclear Facility. **Economic Considerations:** Closure of the Lower Mississippi River could cost the U.S. Economy hundreds of millions of dollars per day.

About the Port of South Louisiana



The Port of South Louisiana (USCG COTP Zone Sector New Orleans), strategically located between two major port jurisdictions (New Orleans and Greater Baton Rouge) and encompassing 54 miles (River MM 114.9 to 168.5 -Three Parishes: St. Charles, St. John the Baptist and St. James) along the Lower Mississippi River, is the largest tonnage port in the Western Hemisphere. On average, 4,000 deep draft vessels and 55,000 barges transit the Port of South Louisiana on a yearly basis, accounting for 15% of all U.S. cargo throughput (57% Louisiana) and 60% of all U.S. grain exports. Within the Port of South Louisiana there are **72 pipelines (six major)**, 11 petrochemical plants, four major refineries, a nuclear plant, three major bridges, 34 deep draft mooring sites, five regulated anchorages, eight midstream transfer points, three conventional power plants, three railroads, seven grain elevators, 110 miles of levees, 29 barge fleeting areas, one DOE Strategic Petroleum Reserve (CAPLINE) and is the Terminus for the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP- the #1 Critical Infrastructure in the U.S.). The Department of Homeland Security ranks the lower 300 hundred miles of the Mississippi River as one of the Nation's top **five** port assets and the **third** most important waterway in the country.

The Port of South Louisiana is well-positioned to respond to river emergencies within its jurisdiction and takes great interest in all types of hazard mitigation along the river.

Situated within the Port of South Louisiana's Globalplex Facility (Adjacent to Bldg. 76) is a state-of-the-art incident command center, equipped with closed circuit television cameras and satellite communications capabilities.

Visit www.portsl.com for additional information and to view the Marine Pipeline Safety video.

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Awareness

The most serious risks to human life and environment posed by marine pipelines are due to anchors, spud barges and collisions of vessels. The intensity of all types of marine use increases near the coast where water is shallower and pipelines are most densely distributed. We are concerned about threats to life and environment resulting from pipeline damage.

Pipeline companies often install subsea attachments or interconnecting piping and valves to their subsea platforms as part of an expansion activity. Avoid activities within 150' of coastal and marsh pipeline platforms where coastal erosion or storms may have removed waterbottom cover from pipelines and subsea assemblies. If your gear becomes entangled and you see bubbling or a liquid rise to the surface, you may have snagged a subsea assembly. Do not attempt to free your gear, placing yourself and your vessel at risk. Record the vessel position and contact the U.S. Coast Guard.

Emergency Preparedness

- Conduct a safety meeting with your crew that covers the hazards of working near pipelines.
- Prepare and review with your crew an emergency response and evacuation plan in the event you make contact with an underwater pipeline.
- Confirm that life-saving devices, including life vests, are placed at multiple, convenient, on-deck locations.
- Ensure you have the information you need to account for all your personnel in the event of a pipeline incident.
- Conduct regular drills to ensure your crew is ready to respond to an emergency.

**In your voyage plan, plan for pipelines.
Know what's below, before you go.**



Coast Guard: Message to Mariners

- Ensure you have appropriately detailed navigation charts on board.
- Review the most recent Coast Pilot 5 information to plan your voyage.
- Ensure your vessel's draft is appropriate for the area you plan to navigate.
- Utilize the USCG Notice to Mariners to identify new hazards.
- Confirm a minimum of 1 foot of water and 3 feet of mud clearance under the vessel's draft for safe passage over pipelines.
- Assess the potential effects of tides and weather on the navigable charts. Continue to monitor the tides and weather throughout the job.
- Review recent hazard surveys for your work locations, if available.
- When working in shallow waters, confirm that all known hazards have been identified with visible markers or survey, including pipeline crossings, obstructions and shallow or exposed pipelines that are identified in the USCG Notice to Mariners Report.

Ensuring Safe Operations

Production and transportation pipelines and platforms are regulated by multiple agencies that include the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration, U.S. Coast Guard and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement. These agencies conduct frequent inspections to ensure operations and maintenance are being conducted in accordance with regulations.

A photograph of a yellow warning sign with a red border. The sign is mounted on two wooden posts. The text on the sign is in bold, red, capital letters. At the bottom, it provides a toll-free phone number and the name of the pipeline company.

**WARNING
DO NOT ANCHOR
OR DREDGE
PETROLEUM PIPELINE**
CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-852-7614
SHELL PIPELINE CORP. NORCO, LOUISIANA

Prevention

Complex operating environments and tight deadlines are among the daily challenges faced by vessel operators. Therefore, a focus on safe operations is critical. It is important to remember underwater pipelines as you develop your safety, work and voyage plans. Submerged pipelines can be damaged by a spud, wheel washing, pile driving, anchor, the pads of a jack-up rig or any heavy activity.

In State waters, call 8-1-1, the national Call Before You Dig resource, to have pipelines located and operators notified of your activity. It is free and it is the law.

Offshore or in OCS waters, contact www.GulfSafe.com or call (888) 910-4853 to report your work locations.

Use the Marine Pipeline Hazard Avoidance Checklist to help reduce the potential for pipeline damage during your next operation.

Jack-Up Barges and Boats

- Confirm that all barge spuds and legs have been secured and all safety devices have been engaged to prevent lowering while underway.
- Request the pipeline operator place personnel onboard to help ensure safe placement.
- Confirm that designated safe spud or jack-up areas near platforms and pipelines have been approved by the appropriate pipeline operators.

- Prepare and review with your crew an emergency response and evacuation plan in the event you make contact with an underwater pipeline.
- If a spud or pad contacts a pipeline, do not attempt to raise it, as this action may cause ignition.

To make a locate request in State waters, call 8-1-1.

Call 8-1-1 or register at laonecall.com to submit online pipeline locate tickets.

To make a locate request on the OCS, call (888) 910-4853 (GULFSAFE), 24 hours a day.

Required Information for either call:

- Date work is to be performed
- Type of work being done
- Who work is being done for
- Location of the work
- Coordinates of the work
- Coordinate type

Unfortunately, statistics show that third-party damage by marine vessels is among the most common causes of the pipeline industry's largest releases of hydrocarbon products. So if you operate a vessel, any time you **drop anchor, dredge, lay pipe, drive pilings, wheel-wash or jack-down (spudding)**—basically anytime the water bottom is disturbed—you must have the proper permission required by state law, through calling the free 8-1-1 clearance service.

Obey all Marine Safety Advisories, Slow Bell Requests and Marine Safety Information Bulletins.



Understand the Signs of a Pipeline Leak

- Although pipeline failures are rare, you and your crew members should be aware of the signs of a possible pipeline leak:
- A blowing or hissing sound
- Blowing water or continuous bubbling that may resemble wheel wash
- A gaseous, hydrocarbon or other unusual color; or liquids bubbling to the surface
- Rainbow sheen

Act Immediately if You Suspect a Leak

- Immediately minimize the use of potential ignition sources such as cell phones, motors, switches, cigarettes, lighters and lights.

Quickly and calmly assess the situation. Ask yourself the following questions:

What caused the damage? Was it a spud, vessel or anchor?

How large does the leak appear to be? Is it getting worse?

What are the weather conditions? Are you expecting lightning, rough seas, etc.?

Where will you and your crew be safest?

- If you evacuate, move personnel to a safe location upwind, as far as possible from the affected area, but not less than 1/4 mile away.
- Prevent unsuspecting vessels or parties from entering the area.
- Do NOT attempt to extinguish a natural gas fire.
- If you see a pipeline crossing sign, call the 800 number and provide your general location and coordinates to allow the pipeline's Operation Control personnel to isolate the pipeline.



What if there is a Spill or Release of Natural Gas?

The goal is to stop the flow of product or natural gas as quickly as possible. If you are in a bayou or marsh and there is a pipeline marker nearby, contact the operator using the emergency number on the signage. They will provide emergency instructions and quickly dispatch personnel to isolate the pipeline and provide emergency instructions.

Always contact The National Response Center. The NRC is able to quickly locate and contact pipeline operators to isolate pipeline facilities. If you suspect that you have grounded your vessel on a pipeline, please state in your call that this is a "release" or "potential release" so the pipeline operator can be contacted to isolate the pipeline facility. Attempting to free your vessel will increase the risk to your crew and vessel. Follow the safety guidelines provided.

In State Waters: Call 8-1-1 before you dig, spud, anchor, dredge, wheel wash or jack-up.

On the OCS: Call GulfSafe (888) 910-4853 and visit www.pipelinesnearby.org

**In the event of a natural gas release or hydrocarbon spill contact:
USCG National Response Center
(800) 424-8802.**

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To coordinate with Pipeline Operators:
In State Waters: Call 8-1-1

In the event of a Natural Gas Release or
Hydrocarbon Spill
Contact: USCG National Response Center
(800) 424-8802

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Federal

- National Response Center Hotline:
(800) 424-8802
- USCG Sector New Orleans Vessel Traffic Service
Lower Mississippi River (24 Hrs.):
(504) 365-2230
- USCG Sector New Orleans Command Center (24 Hrs.):
(504) 365-2543 or (504) 365-2200
- USCG Sector New Orleans Waterways Management:
(504) 365-2280
- USCG Marine Safety Unit Baton Rouge
(225) 298-5400
- USCG Marine Safety Unit Morgan City:
(985) 380-5320
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
New Orleans EOC:
(504) 862-1102
- FBI New Orleans:
(504) 816-3000

State

- Louisiana State Police HAZMAT HOTLINE:
(877) 925-6595
- Louisiana Dept. of Environmental Quality (LA-DEQ):
(888) 763-5424 / (225) 342-1234
www.deq.louisiana.gov
- Louisiana Dept. of Natural Resources (Pipeline):
(225) 342-5505
- Governor's Office of Homeland Security
& Emergency Preparedness:
(225) 925-7500
- LA-SAFE (State Fusion Center):
(225) 925-4192
- Pontchartrain Levee District:
(225) 869-9721

Port Authorities

- Port of South Louisiana (Marine Operations 24 Hrs.):
(985) 536-3678 (Day) / (866) 536-3678
Channels 16 & 67 Marine VHF While on Patrol
- Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District (24 Hrs.):
(504) 297-5660
- St. Bernard Port & Harbor District:
(504) 277-8418 / (504) 342-6289 (Lt. Eric Acosta)
- Port of New Orleans:
(504) 522-2551
- Port of New Orleans Harbor Police:
(504) 891-7585
- Port of New Orleans Fire Boat:
(504) 897-6844
- Port of Greater Baton Rouge (24 Hrs.):
(225) 342-5378

MSOC

- Port of South Louisiana (24 Hrs.):
(985) 536-8300
- Port of St. Bernard / Plaquemines: Lt. Eric Acosta –
(504) 342-6289
- Port of Greater Baton Rouge (JTF7)
(225) 342-1619

Notification: Suspicious Activity

(such as picture taking and/or placing
objects on or near pipeline infrastructure):
9-1-1 and NRC

Notification: Pipeline Strike

- National Response Center
(800) 424-8802 (24 Hrs.)
- Louisiana State Police HAZMAT Hotline:
(877) 925-6595
- Louisiana DEQ Hotline:
(225) 342-1234
- Louisiana DEQ Single Point Of Contact:
(225) 219-3640
- Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO)
(225) 925-6606
- GOHSEP:
(225) 925-7500

Questions (Schedule Presentation)

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