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Working together for pipeline safety.
Pipelines are the safest method to transport products, such as natural gas, oil or other commodities, across the country. However, if these pipelines are damaged the result could be a serious detriment to the environment, or public safety. You have an important role to play to ensure safety. Please, call before you dig.

Call Before You Dig
You must call and obtain written approval from the pipeline company before mechanically excavating and constructing within the right of way or mechanically excavating within 30 metres (100 feet) of the right of way. If you are unable to reach an agreement with the pipeline company, contact the National Energy Board.

Did you know?
- Unauthorized construction or excavation over or near a pipeline is illegal.
- The pipeline company must inform you within 10 business days whether permission for your project has been granted or refused. If permission has been refused, the pipeline company must inform you of the reasons.
- The pipeline company has three business days to respond to a request to locate its pipeline.

The Pipeline Right-of-Way
A pipeline is installed within a strip of land referred to as a right of way. The pipeline company has acquired rights to use this land for the construction, operation and maintenance of its pipeline, however, ownership of the land remains with the landowner.

All activities within the right of way are governed by the NEB Act, the NEB Pipeline Crossing Regulations, Parts I and II, and easement agreements negotiated between the landowner and the pipeline company.

To ensure safety, you will need to contact the company to get written approval for a number of different activities on the right of way. These activities include:
- Operating heavy vehicles or mobile equipment over the right-of-way where a roadway does not exist
- Reducing the depth of soil covering the pipeline
- Ploughing below 30 cm (1 foot)
- Ground levelling
- Installing drainage systems
- Augering
- Fencing

The Safety Zone
The Safety Zone extends 30 metres (100 feet) on either side of the right of way. To ensure safety, excavation using mechanical equipment or explosives within this zone requires approval from the pipeline company. However, the existence of the safety zone does not preclude development of the land.

The Restricted Area
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10-Step Checklist of Safety
1. Plan your activity — Identify the precise location of your work; check records for evidence of pipeline easements or other buried utilities.
2. Visit the site and look for signs of a nearby pipeline or other buried utilities.
3. Call the pipeline company and seek their approval for your plans.
4. Obtain a copy of the company’s detailed crossing guidelines.
5. Call your provincial One-Call System where applicable.
6. Be on site when the pipeline is located and know the meaning of the pipeline markers.
7. Expose the pipeline by hand prior to mechanical excavation within three metres (10 feet) of the pipe.
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The Pipeline Right-of-Way
A pipeline right of way may contain more than one pipeline.

30 metre (100 foot) Safety Zone

30 metre (100 foot) Safety Zone

Depth of cover over pipelines may vary

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WARNING
HIGH PRESSURE PIPELINE
PIPELINE COMPANY NAME
PHONE NUMBER

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