

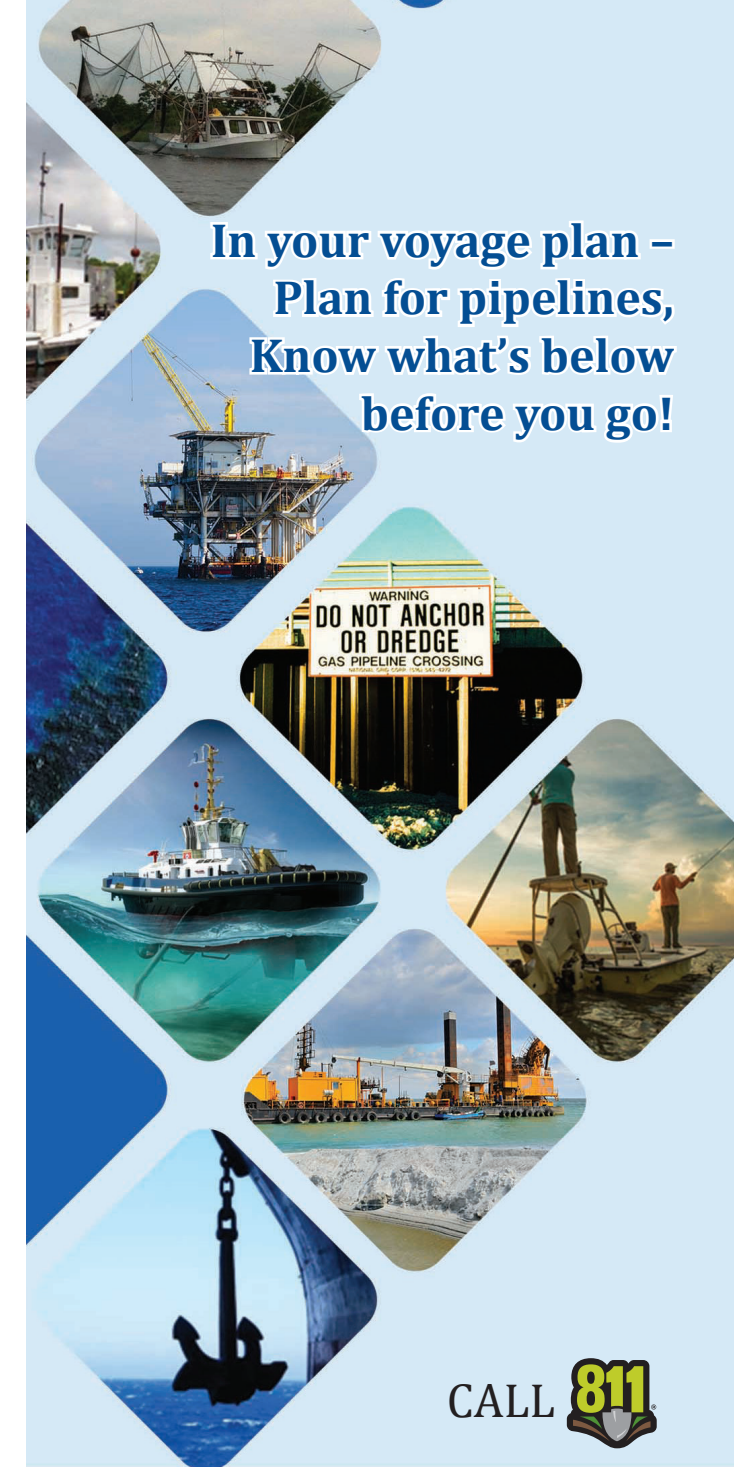
Brochure Overview

There are more than 63,000 combined miles of hydrocarbon pipelines spanning the five gulf states' inland waters, (rivers, bays, lakes, coastal areas) extending deep into the Gulf of Mexico. With more pipelines being built every day and more boats on the water, the chance of a vessel or boat coming in contact with a pipeline is growing. Accidental interactions and incidents have caused spills, outages, gas releases, injuries and even deaths. The recommendations are valuable information regarding pipeline safety, damage prevention and emergency response for all marine environments. This information should be reviewed and kept in a readily available place by all mariners, boaters, fishermen and marine-related companies.



How to Avoid Pipelines and Communicate with Pipeline Companies

- **Call 811 before starting your work. It's a free call: 2 business days prior for inland and coastal waters and 7 days prior for offshore activities.** This free call will notify most pipeline companies to have lines located. This will reduce your liability if an incident occurs.
- In many states "Call Before You Dig" laws apply to marine environments just as they do on land.
- Look for "Pipeline Warning" or "Do not Anchor or Dredge" signs or markers on the banks or in waterways. They usually have the company name and emergency contact number. In these areas, ALL water bottom contact MUST be avoided.
- Before departure, make a voyage plan with route and stopping points. Reference maps, identify and plan for pipeline avoidance. Have a response plan if a pipe line is struck and share with crew.
- Plan to avoid shallow water depths and account for low tide levels.
- Confirm a minimum of 3 ft of water bottom clearance below the vessel's draft for safe passage over pipelines.
- NOTE: Electric, Fiber-Optic, Water, Phone, Cable, and Gas lines also run underwater and the same guidelines to prevent damage apply.



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

CALL **811**

CAMO

Coastal and Marine Operators



Offshore Pipeline Safety

- Applies to federal waters outside of state boundaries.
- Vessels/Activity (include but not limited to): anchoring of all types, jack-up boats, spud and lay barges, ships, site clearance, seafloor exploration activities, seafloor contact of commercial fishing gear, platform installations, abandonments.
- ANY force over 150 lbs. that contacts the seafloor or potentially a pipeline must be reported prior to activity to avoid personnel injury, pipeline damage and protect the environment from spills.
- **Activities within 1,500 ft. of a pipeline must be reported 7 days prior to start.**
- Report by making a **FREE Call to 811** or the pipeline company directly to have lines located. This reduces your liability if an incident occurs.
- Obtain a safe work acknowledgment or crossing agreement from the pipeline company.
- Pipeline companies may send a spotter during your activities.
- Note: In depths over 200 ft. many offshore pipelines are not buried and are open to damage.

Inland Waters and Coastal Pipeline Safety

- Applies to state jurisdictional boundaries including rivers, lakes, bayous and bays.
- Vessels/Activity (include but not limited to): dredging, spud barges, jack-up boats, tug boats, heavy anchoring, contact of commercial fishing gear, site clearance, pile driving, boring, wheel washing, installation and removal of structures.
- ANY force over 150 lbs. that contacts the water bottom or potentially a pipeline must be reported prior to activity to avoid personnel injury, pipeline damage and protect the environment from spills.
- **Activities within 250 ft. of a pipeline must be reported 2 business days prior to start.**
- Report by making a **FREE Call to 811** to have the lines located. This reduces your liability if an incident occurs.
- Obtain a safe work acknowledgment or crossing agreement from the pipeline company.
- If you suspect a pipeline is damaged, laws require that it must be reported.
- Use only approved anchorage and mooring areas.



Understand the Signs of a Pipeline Leak

- A continuous bubbling, blowing or hissing sound coming from the water.
- A rainbow sheen or unusual color, oily residue, or hydrocarbon (gaseous) smell on the water's surface.



Act Immediately if you Suspect a Leak

- **Shutdown or minimize** the use of all potential ignition sources like motors, lights, etc. If possible, drift out of the area before starting a motor or ignition source.
- Evaluate the situation, record your exact location and move upwind at least ¼ mile away from the affected area. When safe, call 911, National Response Center 800-424-8802 and the Coast Guard.
- Prevent and warn other vessels from entering the area.
- If you see a pipeline sign nearby call the emergency number listed.

Marine Emergency Response

- Pipeline emergencies on the water pose different challenges than events on land.
- Reaching the scene can take much longer.
- Get the coordinates of the incident and plan your entry route.
- Natural gas may be odorless, have a gas detector on hand when approaching an incident area, entering upwind.
- Do not try to extinguish a fire on the water unless personal safety is an issue.
- Boom off and secure the leak area as soon as possible.
- Communicate directly with the pipeline company to isolate the source.

This Marine Pipeline Safety Message brought to you by CAMO "Coastal And Marine Operators" Pipeline Industry Group.

CAMO pipeline safety information is available free-of-charge. For more information or to join CAMO visit www.camogroup.org

Send us your comments or questions to info@camogroup.org

In your voyage plan – Plan for pipelines, Know what's below before you go!

