

# BUSINESSSAFE

*BusinessSafe is designed to aid businesses in protecting the safety and well-being of Florida's residents and visitors from threats. BusinessSafe provides private sector partners with open source information, analysis and resources to help protect their businesses and communities.*

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## BusinessSafe Highlight: Pipeline Systems Subsector

The pipeline systems subsector is a crucial component to multiple U.S. critical infrastructure sectors. There are approximately 2.7 million miles of transmission pipeline spanning across the United States. These pipelines carry a variety of natural gases, hazardous liquids, and chemicals from producers to suppliers to homes and businesses. While disruptions to the pipeline systems are rare, they could have disastrous effects on other critical infrastructure sectors, the environment, and the surrounding population.

### Criminal Activity

Pipeline operations can be compromised by bad actors in a variety of ways. Attacks or disruptions could lead to spills, explosions, supply chain disruptions, intellectual property theft, and power, fuel, and chemical shortages.

1. **Cyberattacks** - Many pipeline operational processes are conducted using interconnected information technology (IT) and operational technology (OT) networks. Many pipeline operation companies have implemented cybersecurity measures to limit network vulnerabilities and protect against system intrusions. Targeting of these networks, by both bad actors and nation-state actors, has the potential to reveal sensitive information and interrupt operations.

[Ransomware Impacting Pipeline Operations](#)

[The Trans-Alaska Pipeline Fights Off 22 Million Cyber Attacks. Daily.](#)

2. **Intentional Physical Sabotage** - Pipelines are often located underground; however, some sections, including valve and compressor stations, are located above ground along the pipeline route. To protect valve and compressor stations, they are often located in secure locked areas. In spite of these protections, bad actors may commit physical attacks or sabotage against pipelines at the valve or compressor stations or to the pipelines directly either to intentionally disrupt service or to attempt to access the gas for financial or personal gain. These attacks or sabotage can disrupt operations, cause expensive repairs, and cause physical and environmental harm.

[Thousands in Colorado Without Heat After Vandals Attack Gas System](#)

[South Africa Severely Burnt Suspects Bust for Siphoning Fuel from Transnet Pipeline](#)



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### Other Threats and Hazards

Since the majority of the U.S. pipeline system is located below ground, there is the potential for incidents and accidents to occur due to negligence or lack of awareness of the pipeline's physical location, unidentified aging in the pipelines, or other issues.

1. **Excavation incidents** - Excavation incidents can occur when a person who is digging strikes and damages a pipeline. Excavation damage can result in fatalities, unintentional fires, property and environmental damage, and significant costs.  
[San Francisco Gas Pipeline Explosion Linked to Excavation Work](#)  
[SoCalGas Urges Homeowners to Call 811 Before Giggling to Avoid Rupturing Gas Lines](#)
2. **Pipeline integrity** - Pipelines undergo routine inspections to ensure they are safe for continued use. Still, due to the nature and location of pipelines, they are susceptible to aging issues, environmental impacts, and material defects. These issues can result in unintentional pipeline eruptions or hazardous material leaks.  
[Gas Line Rupture Sparks Massive Fire in Sanford](#)  
[12 Million Cubic Feet of Natural Gas Released After Rupture Near Florida's Turnpike](#)

### Resources

**Before you dig** - Prior to digging or excavation, ensure you contact local utility authorities to properly identify the location of all buried utilities where you are wanting to dig. Contact the free national service line, Call 811, either by phone by dialing 811 or 800-432-4770 or visit their Florida specific [website](#) for more information on the process and requirements.

**Leak or disruption** - For best practices to follow should an incident occur with a natural gas distribution pipeline visit the Department of Energy [website](#).

**“If You See Something, Say Something®”** – For potential indicators of suspicious activity related to pipelines visit, [Tripwire-Pipelines](#). Report suspicious activity to your local law enforcement agency, on the FDLE website using our tool kit or by calling 855-FLA-Safe. In an emergency, call 911.

[Florida's See Something, Say Something Tool Kit](#)

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