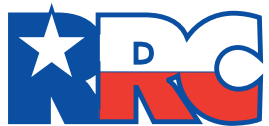




Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

or **1-800-545-6005**



**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

Safety Division  
Pipeline Damage Prevention Program  
[www.rrc.state.tx.us](http://www.rrc.state.tx.us)

**Commissioners**

Michael L. Williams  
Victor G. Carrillo  
Elizabeth A. Jones

Preventing & Reporting

# Pipeline Damage



# DIG SAFELY

Texas Pipeline Damage Prevention Program

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

# Operator Response

## Not Responding to a Notification Center Locate Request

If an operator fails to respond to a request to locate and mark a pipeline excavation site, the RRC will consider this as a "No Positive Response" by the operator. This occurs when all of the three following situations happen:

1. The operator does not respond to the excavator's locate request.
2. The excavator makes a required second call to the notification center because they did not receive a positive response from the pipeline operator on their first request.
3. The operator does not respond to the second notice.

Remember, operators who fail to give a positive response to excavators, can face penalties of up to \$10,000 per day per violation under the new law.

## Do your Part

- Keep pipeline mapping data current.
- Mark pipelines within the 48-hour time frame.
- Communicate with the excavator, give a positive response.
- Report all Third Party Damages.
- Promote safe digging.

## Positive Response

A positive response occurs when:

- the operator marks the underground pipeline within the 48-hour required timeframe.
- or notifies the excavator that there are no underground pipelines to be marked by using the excavator specified methods (ie. fax, email, letter).

If an operator fails to respond to a first call, then the excavator is required to make a second call. At this second call, a documented positive response from the operator is required by using the excavator specified methods.

If the operator does not respond after four hours of the second call, then excavators may proceed with their projects.

Both the excavator and the operator must make a record of a positive response regarding each line locate ticket.

**For additional pipeline damage information, go to the Railroad Commission website at [www.rrc.state.tx.us](http://www.rrc.state.tx.us).**



# About Reporting Pipeline Damage

## New Pipeline Damage Reporting Rules

Effective Sept. 1, 2007, the Railroad Commission adopted a new Pipeline Damage Prevention Rule to increase the safety of pipeline operations in Texas. The number one cause of pipeline accidents in Texas occurs when contractors, work crews and the general public dig around a pipeline and damage it. This is known as third-party damage and happens about 200 times a week in Texas.

## New Texas Law Requirements

Texas law requires all damage to pipeline facilities be reported by both the pipeline operator as well as the excavator. Operators and excavators who do not file a report with the Railroad Commission can face penalties of up to \$10,000 per day per violation under this new law.



## Damage Definitions

Pipeline damage includes but is not limited to:

1. defacing, scraping, displacement, penetration, destruction, or partial or complete severance of an underground pipeline or of any protective coating, housing, or other protective device of an underground pipeline;
2. weakening of structural or lateral support of an underground pipeline that affects the integrity of the pipeline; or
3. failure to properly replace the backfill surrounding an underground pipeline.

If an excavator or contractor hits or just scratches your pipeline you are required to file a Texas Damage Report Form (TDRF) with the Railroad Commission of Texas.

## GPS Information

GPS data will be used to map damages and generate statistical data. Operators should submit the pipeline incident location using the following GPS standards:

GPS Coordinate Submission Standard:

Decimal Degrees • NAD 83

Latitude: 00.00000 • Longitude: -000.00000

Example of a location:

Latitude: 31.12345 • Longitude: -101.12345

NOTE: In Texas, the valid value number range for latitude is 25.0 to 37.0 and for longitude from -93.0 to -107.0.

## Incident Information Card (IIC)

The Railroad Commission has developed an Incident Information Card to be used by operators at an incident site to assist in reporting damages through the Commission's online system. This card contains basic information that is required in a damage report and will help operators efficiently gather this data at the accident scene. The card is in a carbon copy format. The operator will fill out their top copy and have the excavator sign it. The carbon copy will then be given to the excavator to use when filling out an excavator damage report.

NOTE: Signing the card verifies receipt of notice only, it does not implicate fault.

The cards, and their printing specifications can be accessed through the RRC's website: [www.rrc.state.tx.us](http://www.rrc.state.tx.us) under "Reporting Pipeline Damages."



# Texas Damage Reporting Form

## (TDRF) FILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Must file electronically
2. The TDRF can be accessed through RRC Online at the following URL: <https://webapps/security/login.do>
3. Log In Page  
User ID and Password: Before filing a TDRF, all operators must have a User ID. A User ID can be obtained by completing the Security Administrator Designation (SAD) Form and mailing it to the RRC. Complete instructions are available on the Log In page.

## Other Non-Compliance Activities

Penalties also may be assessed when no damage to a pipeline has occurred. Listed below are few examples:

- Not calling before digging
- Not marking pipelines correctly
- Not responding to a locate request

For reporting questions either call 512-475-0512 or email us at [TDRFinfo@rrc.state.tx.us](mailto:TDRFinfo@rrc.state.tx.us) and a RRC representative will assist you.