

Recommended Minimum Evacuation Distances

For

Natural Gas Pipeline Leaks and Ruptures

(Not applicable for Butane, Propane, or other Hazardous Liquids)

		Pipeline Size (inches)											
		4	6	8	10	12	16	20	22	24	30	36	42
Pressure (psig)	100	91	137	182	228	274	365	456	502	547	684	821	958
	200	129	193	258	322	387	516	645	709	774	967	1161	1354
	300	158	237	316	395	474	632	790	869	948	1185	1422	1659
	400	182	274	365	456	547	730	912	1003	1094	1368	1642	1915
	500	204	306	408	510	612	816	1020	1122	1224	1529	1835	2141
	600	223	335	447	558	670	894	1117	1229	1340	1675	2011	2346
	700	241	362	483	603	724	965	1206	1327	1448	1810	2172	2534
	800	258	387	516	645	774	1032	1290	1419	1548	1935	2322	2709
	900	274	410	547	684	821	1094	1368	1505	1642	2052	2462	2873
	1000	288	433	577	721	865	1154	1442	1586	1730	2163	2596	3028
	1100	302	454	605	756	907	1210	1512	1664	1815	2269	2722	3176
	1200	316	474	632	790	948	1264	1580	1738	1896	2369	2843	3317
	1300	329	493	658	822	986	1315	1644	1809	1973	2466	2959	3453
	1400	341	512	682	853	1024	1365	1706	1877	2047	2559	3071	3583
	1500	353	530	706	883	1060	1413	1766	1943	2119	2649	3179	3709
	1600	365	547	730	912	1094	1459	1824	2006	2189	2736	3283	3830
1700	376	564	752	940	1128	1504	1880	2068	2256	2820	3384	3948	
1800	387	580	774	967	1161	1548	1935	2128	2322	2902	3482	4063	
1900	398	596	795	994	1193	1590	1988	2186	2385	2981	3578	4174	
2000	408	612	816	1020	1224	1631	2039	2243	2447	3059	3671	4283	
2100	418	627	836	1045	1254	1672	2090	2299	2508	3134	3761	4388	
2200	428	642	856	1069	1283	1711	2139	2353	2567	3208	3850	4492	

Table 1 - Evacuation Distance in Feet

The applicable leak or rupture condition is that of a sustained trench fire fueled by non-toxic natural gas escaping from two full bore pipe ends. Blast overpressure is not addressed. The distances shown in Table 1 are intended to provide protection from burn injury and correspond to a thermal heat flux exposure level of 450 Btu/hr ft². This is the accepted limit of heat exposure for unprotected outdoor areas where people congregate; as established by the US Department of Housing & Development Code 24CFR51, Subpart C, Siting of HUD Assisted Projects Near Hazardous Operations Handling Conventional Fuels or Chemicals of an Explosive or Flammable Nature. The formula used to calculate distance was taken from the Gas Research Institute Report GRI-00/0189, *A Model for Sizing High Consequence Areas Associated with Natural Gas Pipelines*, 2001, prepared by C-FER Technologies. That model does not take into account wind or other factors which may greatly influence specific conditions. Users are advised that the distances shown in Table 1 are considered to be "general information" only and are not intended to replace a site specific risk analysis. The Pipeline Association for Public Awareness makes no warranty with respect to the usefulness of this information and assumes no liability for any and all damages resulting from its use. Anyone using this information does so at their own risk.