

# Pipeline Safety Program

January 2007

## Our state's commitment to safety

The UTC's pipeline safety program has inspected certain natural gas pipeline systems since 1955.



However, the Legislature in 2000 authorized an expansion in the program to include the inspection of all interstate and intrastate pipeline facilities carrying gas and hazardous liquids. The program has enforcement authority over intrastate pipelines and advises the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration regarding

safety compliance and enforcement actions on interstate pipelines operating in Washington. The program is supported by regulatory fees paid by pipeline companies and federal grants.

## Current Priorities

### Preventing external damage to pipelines

- Call before you dig 800-424-5555

### Limiting potential consequences in growth areas

- Land use and development practices

### Independent, small gas pipeline systems

- Developing and encouraging safe practices

### Public awareness research & support

- Enlisting the public in pipeline safety

### Integrity management for local gas companies

- Identify and responding to risk.

## Emphasis on Field Time

In 2006, the pipeline safety program spent over 570 days in the field inspecting pipeline facilities and operating procedures. Last year, the program conducted 191 inspections, including 143 unannounced inspections of pipeline construction, repair and maintenance. Our inspectors monitor, respond to and investigate pipeline incidents.

## Pipelines in Washington

Over 20,000 miles of pipeline providing natural gas to your neighborhood

Over 1,800 miles of natural gas transmission pipelines

430 miles of pipelines carrying gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, crude oil, butane, and anhydrous ammonia.



## What We Do

- Inspections
- Incident investigation
- Technical assistance
- Compliance and follow-up
- Pipeline mapping
- Public awareness
- Local government outreach

