

## LOGGING/FORESTRY SAFETY SERIES

### PIPELINE SAFETY

*Photo credit: Cornelis F. de Hoop, PhD*

#### **Incident Summary:**

It looked like a road or path through the woods, but the ground an East Texas logging crew crossed on its way to a work site was a pipeline right-of-way, with a buried natural gas pipeline.

While the logging crew was clearing timber, a pipeline company representative arrived and asked if they had taken precautions for crossing a pipeline right-of-way. They were unaware that there is a procedure for safely crossing pipelines with heavy equipment.

In this case, the logging crew was lucky. The weight of heavy machinery like logging equipment or trucks can crack or crush a buried pipeline, damage the coating, or even cause a pipeline rupture. This could result in injuries, equipment damage, disruption of services and lead to expensive fines, repair costs and significant down-time.

If you see or smell anything abnormal on or around the right-of-way, report your concerns to 911 and the pipeline company immediately.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What does a right-of-way look like?
2. What could happen if you cross a right-of-way with logging equipment?
3. Have you ever worked near a right-of-way?
4. What should you do before you cross a right-of-way?

#### **Take Home Message:**

Call before you cross. Every time you plan to cross a pipeline, call the toll-free, 24-hour number for your area, which can be found on the pipeline marker located along the right-of-way.

Call 811 three working days before moving to a new logging site.



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