



Scott Campbell, Foreman in the Gas Transmission Cathodic Protection Department at NorthWestern Energy, gets a lot of “deer in the headlights” looks when he explains his job to people.

However, Scott plays a very important role in keeping our natural gas pipelines safe.

“There is a lot of math and chemistry involved with what we do, but to keep it simple, we keep the gas in the lines,” Scott explained. “Three other employees and I take care of about 2,000 miles of high-pressure gas lines throughout Montana and South Dakota.”

Without coating and cathodic protection, steel lines will corrode.

“Every steel line wants to corrode, or rust, back to its original source — the iron you mined in the ground,” Scott said.

The protective coating on the lines is the first line of defense against corrosion, followed by cathodic protection, which counteracts the corrosion process.

Scott has been with NorthWestern for 35 years. He started in the gas distribution department, then ended up in the mailroom, the printshop, and then at the Dry Creek Compressor Station south of Red Lodge. He made his way back to Butte in 2011 and has been in his current position since 2023.

“I’ve worn a lot of different hats,” Scott said.

There are a lot of things Scott likes about his job—the people, the travel, the time spent outside—but one thing stands out above everything else.

“My favorite thing is knowing that I keep the public and the environment safe,” he said.



## Beef Fondue

Growing up, Scott’s mom would make fondue for Scott’s birthday. She typically made cheese fondue, as well as beef fondue.

### INGREDIENTS

- 1½ to 2 pounds chateaubriand or London Broil
- 4-6 cups of peanut oil, or beef or chicken broth

### DIRECTIONS

- 1 Cut steak into ¾ inch to 1-inch cubes. Place on a serving platter.
- 2 In a saucepan on the stove, heat the cooking liquid by heating it just below the boiling point. Preheat the fondue pot slightly and add the liquid until about ½ full.

### SAFETY TIPS:

- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions very carefully whether you are using an electric pot or Sterno.
- If you are using Sterno, always make sure the flame is entirely extinguished before adding more fuel. Don’t mess around with this and do not let children refuel or light the Sterno.
- Cooking time may vary from 30 to 60 seconds, depending upon the doneness of meat the individual prefers.
- To speed things up you can place a handful of meat in the pot and scoop out with a slotted spoon.
- If you use broth, it can also be refrigerated and used for soup another meal.

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We are proud of the diversity in the communities we serve. To better serve the needs of some of our customers, we translate important customer information into two languages: Spanish and Karenic.

Estamos orgullosos de la diversidad en las comunidades que servimos. Para satisfacer mejor las necesidades de algunos de nuestros clientes, traducimos información importante del cliente a dos idiomas: español y karenic.

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# Energy Connections

Customer Bill Insert  
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Bright ideas to save

## Seal air leaks

Air leaks may account for 15% to 30% of energy needed for heating and cooling. Let us help you identify air leaks with a Home EnergyCheck. Learn more at [NorthWesternEnergy.com/EnergyCheck](http://NorthWesternEnergy.com/EnergyCheck).



## Annual pipeline inspections underway

Every year, NorthWestern Energy does leak surveys on our natural gas system. This includes gas main lines, service lines and gas meters.

From April through October, you may see crews working throughout neighborhoods carrying what's called a DP-IR (Detecto Pak-Infrared). These long, hand-held wands can detect even tiny traces of natural gas, which allows us to find small leaks and get them fixed right away.

Inspectors will need to access your property to inspect your natural gas meter. If they can't reach your meter due to a locked gate or an animal in your yard, they'll come to your door and ask for access. If they can't get a hold of someone in the house, they'll send a NorthWestern Energy employee back later, so we can be sure to get a full inspection of the natural gas system.

We contract with Heath Consultants, whose employees drive cars that are clearly marked with their logo and the NorthWestern Energy logo. They also wear yellow safety vests that identify them as a NorthWestern Energy contractor. In rural areas, you may also see inspectors on ATVs.

## Pipeline safety

In addition to being in your backyard, we are inspecting and monitoring the larger pipelines that deliver natural gas to your neighborhoods and communities.

### Pipeline markers

Markers, placed at all public road and railroad crossings, show the approximate location of pipelines and identify the companies that operate them. These markers indicate the pipeline content, the name of the pipeline operator and the operator's emergency phone number.

Even if the pipeline is marked, you must call 811 at least two business days before any digging project to have utility lines marked. The pipeline may not follow a straight course between markers.

### Pipeline monitoring

As a pipeline operator, we monitor the status of our transmission pipelines seven days a week, 24 hours a day to ensure they are safe and secure. We use computers, alarms, meters, local employees and satellite technology to control and check our pipelines. The monitoring systems detect changes in pressure and flow and can activate warnings and safeguards if a leak is detected.

### HCA's and TIMPs

Federal pipeline safety regulations use the concept of High Consequence Areas, or HCAs, to identify specific locations and areas where an accidental release of natural gas could have the most significant adverse consequences. Once an HCA has been identified, operators devote additional focus to ensure the integrity of pipelines in that area. We have in place a Transmission Integrity Management Program, or TIMP, that defines the steps and timelines for identifying HCAs, assessing the integrity of the pipelines and taking aggressive steps to mitigate the risks to people and property near HCAs.

### Pipeline purpose and reliability

Pipelines are the safest way to transport energy products, including natural gas, crude oil and other fuels. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) regulates pipelines with the help of state partners. According to government and industry statistics, the most common cause of pipeline incidents is improper or unauthorized digging near a pipeline, which is why it's important to call 811 before you dig. Pipeline operators carefully build, maintain and monitor the integrity and security of their lines.

## How to recognize a natural gas leak

A gas leak is often recognized by smell, sight, or sound:

**Smell** — A distinctive sulfur-like or rotten-egg odor is added to natural gas, so you'll recognize it quickly. However, do not rely on your sense of smell alone to detect a natural gas leak.

**Look** — You may see dirt blowing into the air from a hole in the ground; continuous bubbling in water; dead or dying vegetation (in an otherwise moist area) over or near a pipeline; a damaged connection to a gas appliance; or an exposed pipeline after an earthquake, fire, flood, or other disaster.

**Listen** — You may hear a hissing, whistling, or roaring sound as natural gas escapes from a pipe.

If you suspect a natural gas leak, warn others and immediately leave the area. From a safe location at least 300 feet from the suspected leak, call 911 and NorthWestern Energy, any time, day or night.



## Excess Gas Flow Valve Notice

If you have an existing gas service installed to your home, you have the option to purchase an Excess Flow Valve (EFV) to be installed by NorthWestern Energy. An EFV is intended to reduce the flow of gas if the service line is severed. The valve is placed in the service line where it leaves the gas main. If your gas service was installed after April 2017, you likely already have an EFV.

An EFV will reduce the flow of gas only if the service line is severely damaged. It is important to note that an EFV will not protect you from a leak or broken line inside your home, or a small leak on the line in your yard. An example of when the valve provides protection is in the event the gas service is damaged from digging or extreme ground movement.

As required by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), we are notifying you that an EFV that meets the minimum prescribed DOT performance standards is available for installation on your natural gas service line.

The cost of installing the EFV will need to be evaluated by an engineer. If you are interested, please call our construction line at 1-83-FOR-BUILD (1-833-672-8453). Payment is required prior to installation of the EFV.

## The hazards of a natural gas release

Natural gas is very safe. However, if a natural gas leak occurs, you need to be aware of the hazards. Natural gas is highly flammable and easily ignited by sparks and static electricity. NorthWestern Energy makes it easy to detect natural gas leaks by adding an unpleasant rotten egg or skunk-like smell to natural gas. If you smell this odor:

- Leave the area immediately.
- Do not use phones, matches, light switches or anything else that could trigger the ignition of the gas.
- When at a safe distance, at least 300 feet away, call 911 and NorthWestern Energy.

Natural gas is lighter than air and can migrate into enclosed spaces. If you smell natural gas, evacuate the area on foot and move upwind of the leak.