How to Secure the Scene of a Pipeline Incident

During response to a pipeline incident, the primary focus of first responders and pipeline operations personnel is safety – for the public, responders, and everyone involved and affected. While eliminating the hazards is the top strategy, security of the scene is of critical importance as well.

Upon arrival, first responders need to conduct a scene size-up to determine hazards associated with the incident, including security risks. This could include vehicular and pedestrian traffic that are in proximity of the incident scene, as well as onlookers, and news media personnel who are converging on the location. Law enforcement assistance for scene isolation is critical –especially if the incident encompasses a large area with multiples roads and intersections. Media outlets should always be directed to a public information area that is away from hazards and the command post. The designated public information officer (PIO) should monitor the activities of news media personnel and ensure they are staying within the designated area.

With the recent increase in protests and sabotage of pipelines across North America, first responders should be cognizant of signs that the incident may have been caused by an intentional act. This includes gates or fences being compromised, vehicles in the vicinity with anti-pipeline or anti-fossil fuel markings, and prior threats to pipeline assets that could indicate a potential terrorist type act. These incidents are on the rise and should be considered by first responders

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Best Practices

“We try to get involvement from petroleum industry stakeholders involved in our LEPC and training events to improve the knowledge base for first responders and get to know the key personnel.”

“We have a meeting each year to discuss concerns or changes in critical incident protocols, based on the information sent to us by Kinder Morgan.”

"I attend the annual pipeline operator sponsored training meetings, so that I may share that information with my personnel." - **Scott Morgan, Boyd County 911, Ashland, KY**

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when dispatched to a pipeline incident.

Lastly, first responders should be aware of the need for evidence protection at the scene of a pipeline emergency. As is the case with arson investigations, root cause investigations of pipeline incidents rely on protection of evidence such as damaged piping, indication of flame/product spread, and location of construction equipment that are suspected of causing pipeline damage. Once the site is determined to be safe the investigation team should take control to map the scene, identify and collect evidence. In the case of serious incidents that result in injuries or fatalities, on site investigations by agencies such as the National Transportation Safety Board should be anticipated.

LEPCs and Their Role in Emergency Response Planning

Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) are an important component of pipeline emergency preparedness and response. LEPCs are organizations that provide a coordinated way for local government, citizens and industry to work together to plan for an integrated, cohesive approach to incident response.

With over 3,000 LEPCs in the United States, Kinder Morgan places an emphasis on participating in these governmental organizations for pre-planning. By law, LEPCs must consist of individuals from the following sectors: elected state and local officials, law enforcement, emergency management, firefighting, first aid, health, local environmental and transportation agencies, hospitals, media outlets, community groups, and representatives of facilities subject to the emergency planning and community right-to-know (EPCRA) requirements.

Emergency plans for LEPCs typically include:

1) The identity and location of hazardous materials in the area

2) The procedures for an immediate response to a chemical accident

3) Ways to notify the public about actions they must take

4) Contact information for appropriate personnel at facilities and plants in their jurisdiction

5) The schedule for testing the plan or emergency response drills

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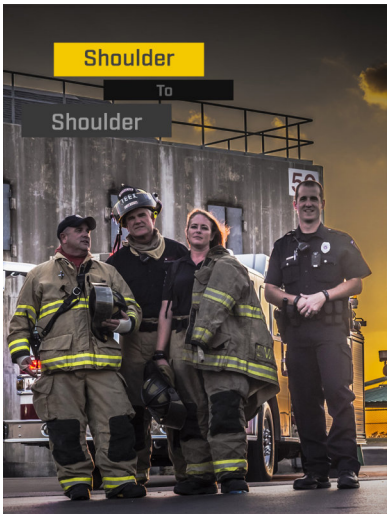
First Responder Training Video Series

Learn how to safely and effectively respond to a pipeline emergency, how pipelines work, how different products impact response, response leading practices, how to better prepare to respond to pipeline incidents and roles in pipeline response. Videos feature interviews with pipeline and emergency response experts, covering a wide variety of emergency response disciplines.
* Videos available at **https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLQv4arPbGluPt7j_JuETWw**



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During plan development, LEPCs are encouraged to include and request feedback from operators in their areas to assist with identifying sensitive areas or developing response procedures. Plans are typically promoted through public meetings and/or announcements soliciting public comment. Testing and review of the plan should occur at least annually, to ensure that actual incident responses and updated hazmat commodity flow studies are included.

As with all emergency response plans, training is critical. Conducting internal training on the plan, as well as incorporating it into full-scale and tabletop exercises conducted jointly with operators, is an important piece of an effective plan. Establishing a basic framework of what part of the plan you want to test and why, is the first step in the process of planning a training tabletop or full-scale drill. For example, involving public officials in a mock emergency exercise provides additional options on incorporating a terrorist threat, cyber-attack, or another issue with governmental implications. Ideally, drills should be utilized to test synchronization between emergency responders, governmental agencies/public officials and operators. Once the drill participants have been identified, remember that those individuals involved in planning the drill should not be active participants.

Once the drill has concluded, the planning team should request feedback from any facilitators, monitors and players. Analyzing the feedback and evaluating what worked, and what areas have room for improvement, provide a framework for action items moving forward. These takeaways also help identify portions of the emergency response plan that were successful and identify areas where improvement may be necessary.

In addition to emergency plan preparedness, LEPCs are tasked with receiving emergency release and hazardous chemical inventory information submitted by local facilities. They are required to make this accessible to the public, upon request. LEPCs can take civil action against facilities if they fail to provide information required under EPCRA.

If you're interested in conducting a drill with Kinder Morgan, please email **publicawarenesscoord@kindermorgan.com**.To access Kinder Morgan's Natural gas and Hazardous Liquids Tabletop Drill Guides, go to: **https://www.kindermorgan.com/Safety-Environment/Public-Awareness/Government-and-Safet**y

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Did you know ...

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Know what's **below.**
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Tailboard Scenario: Responding to a HVL Pipeline Incident

It's 7:30 a.m. on a Wednesday morning. Engine 3, Engine 7, and Squad 2 are dispatched to a reported pipeline leak caused by an excavator off State Highway 44 at Meadow View Farms. Upon arrival, command is established and a scene size-up conducted. Observations indicate a track hoe being used to install drainage tile has struck a pipeline and product is leaking into a large creek. The equipment operator was not injured, and turned off the equipment when he self-evacuated.

Upon further investigation, a nearby pipeline marker indicates that the pipeline contains petroleum products. Through dispatch, using the Emergency Number on the pipeline marker, the Incident Commander (IC) contacts the pipeline control center and is advised that the 30" pipeline transports batches of petroleum products. The IC is further advised, that based on the incident location, gasoline is the product being transported. The pipeline controller states that company response personnel have been dispatched to the scene with an estimated time of arrival of 45 minutes.

A significant amount of product is leaking into the creek and flowing toward the City of Crestview which is located 3/4 of a mile south of the incident location. Between the incident location and the city, lies a residential development on both sides of the creek containing 500 homes and an elementary school with 300 students.

The IC requests response from the county hazardous materials (HAZMAT) team. Dispatch advises that the hazmat team is currently assigned to a tanker roll over incident on I-77 and is currently unavailable to respond.

A local television crew and reporter along with two print news reporters have arrived on the scene and are requesting an interview.

The weather is cloudy, temperature is 62 degrees and winds are from the north at 10 miles per hour.

Discussion Points

- What are the strategy and associated tactics for response to this incident?

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WISER

NEW- WISER 6.2 Released for iOS, Android and WebWISER! It includes:

*The 2020 ERG with limited Spanish translations for ERG-Specific content
*Fire-specific scenario data can now be plotted on protective distance maps

A set of WISER tutorial videos can be viewed **here.**

WISER
Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders

NPMS and PIMMA Updates

The National Pipeline Mapping System **(NPMS)** now includes Coastal Ecological Unusually Sensitive Areas (Coastal Eco USA) GIS data is now available for download. New HCA updates have been added by PHMSA.

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- Based on the initial "size-up" what are the hazards and associated safety concerns?
- What additional resources are needed?
- What information is provided to the news media regarding the incident?
- Indicate what the Incident Command System structure would look like for this incident?
- What specific information is needed from the pipeline operator?

Safe Approach to an Active Pipeline Incident

While pipeline incidents are infrequent and rarely significant in severity, when they do occur a well-coordinated and prudent response is required. No two pipeline incidents are exactly the same, and as with many aspects of emergency response, avoidance of complacency is critical. Assuming "it's just a small service line cut" and therefore minimalizing the risk, can be a set up for tragic results. A safe and successful response to a pipeline incident depends on an effective size-up which begins when the call comes in.

When dispatched to a pipeline incident, first responders should analyze the information provided by 911 dispatch related to location, indications of the magnitude of damage/release, product involved, and potential exposures. Information gleaned through the call intake process preferably using National Emergency Number Association (NENA) guidance (**https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.nena.org/resource/resmgr/Standards/NENA_56-007.1_Pipeline_Emerg.pdf**) can be extremely useful in planning the response. Upon arrival, a thorough scene size-up should be conducted. This should include identifying the extent of product release or migration of product using detection equipment such as combustible gas indicators or multi-gas monitors. The risk of tunnel vision related to only focusing on the incident site and not considering product migration via storm and sewer systems is real and should be avoided to every extent possible. Other factors to be considered include positioning of apparatus, ignition sources, other utilities, traffic, exposures, wind speed/direction, terrain and occupancy. The size-up process should be continued through the duration of the incident response until completion.

During the size-up process, identification of the pipeline operator is critical. Timely notification will expedite response by pipeline personnel and isolation of the leaking product. Upon arrival, the company representative(s) should be included in the existing unified command structure. Development of an incident action plan

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NOTE

If you would like to request additional information, or to schedule a presentation or tabletop drill with Kinder Morgan, please fill out the form found at **http://PAinforequest.kindermorgan.com**

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Is there a topic you'd like to see featured in the next issue?! Please click **here** to suggest your topic for The Responder newsletter!

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and associated site safety plan will aid in effective management of the response and ensure strategies and objectives are documented and communicated.

While firefighter turnout gear is often appropriate personal protective equipment for response to a pipeline incident, this should be confirmed in consultation with the pipeline operator and review of product material safety data (SDS) sheets. Any product-fed fires should be eliminated through the isolation of product flow – not extinguished through application of water. Again, pipeline operations personnel are the best source of information related to safely handling and mitigating product release.

Upon termination of the emergency, ensuring scene security and protection of the evidence for post incident investigation are vital. ■

NOTE

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