Pipeline Emergency Preparedness & Training: Mock Emergency Exercise in Jonesboro, Georgia

To practice our emergency response and better prepare personnel, Kinder Morgan regularly conducts joint mock emergency exercises with first responders. Last April, one such exercise was conducted in Jonesboro, Georgia- a suburb of Atlanta. Clayton County emergency responders assisted in planning the exercise and played an integral role in the drill. The scenario involved a backhoe striking a Southern Natural Gas Company (SNG) transmission pipeline in the vicinity of work conducted by the local water authority. This exercise was unique in that it occurred in an area where SNG and Atlanta Gas Light share a right-of-way, and also incorporated a potential terrorism threat.

As a kickoff to the exercise, a call was placed to the company from an individual claiming that he would "expose the pipeline and the damage it is doing to our planet." Within minutes, simulated calls began to roll into the local SNG office, as well as SNG Gas Control, reporting a strong odor in the area. The local fire department responded to the incident site and conducted a thorough scene size-up. The chief noticed the over-turned backhoe and recognized that there was leaking gas in the area, making it too risky to send personnel in to rescue the backhoe operator. After consulting with the local Sheriff's Department and the local SNG office, the fire chief requested that the company isolate the gas so that the backhoe operator could be rescued. While securing the scene, the Sheriff's

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Best Practices

"We attend pipeline sponsored training meetings, have local pipeline safety meeting[s] with company reps and emergency responders. Kinder Morgan rep[resentative] is a member of our LEPC."- **Willie Brantingham, Information Coordinator, Columbiana County LEPC, Ohio**

"We put on free training for local responders to build response relationships and skills between local, state and federal response partners."- **Doug Ferguson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7, Kansas**

"We hold tabletop drills, attend pipeline sponsored training (i.e. 811 classes) and full scale drills with oil companies."

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department noticed a car nearby with a “Georgians Against Gas” bumper sticker and other various anti-pipeline materials nearby, alerting them to the potential of energy infrastructure opposition action.

As scripted, moments later a simulated explosion occurred and the backhoe was engulfed in flames. Winds pushed the fire northward and eastward toward trees and a shopping center. SNG personnel arrived on scene and began isolating the gas in the area. The Sheriff’s department called for an evacuation within ½ a mile of the incident site. Within the hour, the gas and fire began to dwindle, and emergency responders were able to gain access to the site to recover the fatally injured backhoe operator. No other injuries were reported, but there was an accident on U.S. 41 that may have been the result of traffic and evacuations in the area.

Around this time, an additional scripted call came into Gas Control from an individual taking credit for the incident and aligning himself with a well-known anti-pipeline group. This element would have introduced the need to communicate and coordinate with groups such as U.S. Homeland Security and the FBI into the exercise. After the fire was completely extinguished, the evacuation order was lifted by the Sheriff’s Department. Simulated local news personnel were on the scene and at nearby company offices attempting to interview emergency responders.

By conducting joint mock emergency exercises, pipeline operators and emergency responders are not only able to test their equipment, personnel and procedures, but also have critical face-to-face interface prior to an actual incident. The more familiar we are with one another and each other’s procedures, the more effective our integrated response will be in the unlikely event of a real incident. For more information on conducting a joint exercise with local Kinder Morgan personnel, please go to **http://PA-inforequest.kindermorgan.com** .

Kinder Morgan would like to thank the Clayton County (GA) Fire Department and Clayton County Sheriff’s Department for their participation in this mock emergency exercise.

Tailboard Scenario: Responding to an HVL Liquids Pipeline Incident

It is early in the shift on a Friday night. At 6:30 p.m., Engine 3, Engine 7, Medic 4 and Battalion 1 are dispatched to an MVA (motor vehicle accident) on Route 17 approximately ¼ mile south of the city limits. Initial reports indicate that a “large truck” has struck

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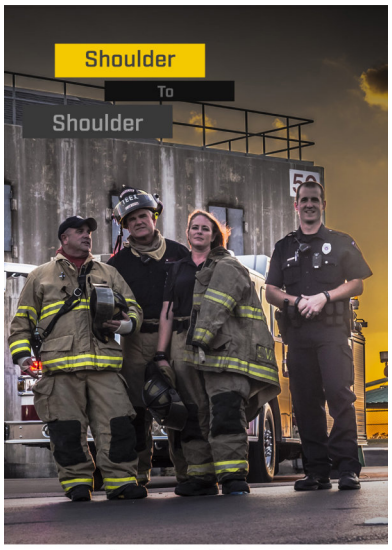
NEW - First Responder Training Video Series

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 **www.shoulder2shoulder.tv**



www.shoulder2shoulder.tv

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"some kind of fencing and pipe" on the side of the highway.

The weather is cloudy with fog in the area. The temperature is 60°F. Winds are from the southeast at 5 mph.

Engine 3 arrives on scene and assumes command. During the initial scene size-up, it is observed that a semi-tractor trailer truck has left the roadway and struck a pipeline valve station. The signage on the remaining fence indicates that the pipeline is owned by "Blue Flame Pipeline" and the product being transported is Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). Engine 3 notifies dispatch and requests that pipeline operator personnel respond.

A thorough scene size-up reveals that the truck has significantly damaged the valve station and the pipeline product is leaking, but has not ignited. The driver of the truck appears to be unconscious and pinned in the cab of the vehicle. The vehicle's engine in not running. Diesel fuel is leaking from the right saddle tank and pooling in a ditch adjacent to the roadway. The truck is pulling a flatbed trailer carrying six generator/light units, and two powered man lifts. All of the cargo has sustained extensive damage in the collision.

It is further determined that LPG is leaking from the pipeline station and entering a dry creek bed that leads to the Woodhaven Mall area, which is located ½ mile to the east of the incident location. The Woodhaven Mall contains over 100 shops, a multi-cinema movie complex and numerous restaurants.

Traffic on Route 17 and surrounding secondary roads is becoming gridlocked. Two local television affiliate crews and one print reporter have arrived on the scene and are requesting an interview with responders.

Discussion Questions:

- What is the overall strategy and the associated tactics for this incident?
- What are the safety concerns?
- What does the ICS structure look like to manage this incident?
- What resources are needed?
- What information is required from the pipeline operator when personnel arrive on site?

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Hazardous Liquids Tabletop Drill Guide & Scenario

Please click **here** to find a guide to incorporating a hazardous liquids pipeline emergency tabletop drill into an upcoming training meeting.

April is Safe Digging Month!

Please help us spread the word and reduce the risk of excavation damage. If you are planning to dig or excavate, or notice any activities along a pipeline right-of-way, please call 811!

WISER

WISER 5.1 Update Release Includes:

*CHEMM 2.0 guidance and reference materials
*New Acute Exposure Guideline Levels for airborne chemicals (AEGL) data from the EPA
*Data updates based on the last Hazardous Substances Data Bank (HSDB) content
*Protective distance "point into the wind" and more!

A set of WISER tutorial videos can be viewed ***here*** and videos can also be found in the training section of the **NLM YouTube Channel**.

WISER
Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders

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- How is the area isolated? How is the size determined?
- What is the plan for extricating the injured driver?
- What notifications are needed?
- How are the media inquiries addressed?

Overview of Pipeline Systems: Pipeline Construction

Constructing a pipeline project is a thoughtful and lengthy process, one based on sound engineering practices and principles, in compliance with thousands of regulatory and legal requirements. It starts when demand for a product is determined and customers are identified. The pipeline is designed to exacting engineering specifications; and steel is obtained/rolled at a pipe mill under strict quality control. Each step is critical.

Many individuals on a project team must assess and select best possible routes; obtain rights-of-way; meet with local, state and federal officials; file for needed permits; submit operating applications; conduct public outreach – *including meeting with emergency responders*– and seek to ensure the pipeline can be built, installed and operated properly and safely.

According to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), "Planning for new capacity must begin far in advance of transporting the first barrel of oil or refined petroleum product, or the first cubic foot of natural gas. Pipeline companies must determine possible routes for the new pipelines; acquire the rights-of-way (ROW) to build, operate and maintain the lines; engineer the actual system designs; and construct the lines. All of these steps are subject to rigorous regulatory reviews and approvals. Construction can only begin after the route selection receives regulatory approval, ROW is obtained, and the system design is completed… The construction process must be carefully planned to ensure the safety and integrity of the new pipeline, and then executed to meet construction schedules and seasonal weather conditions."

Pipelines are regulated by federal, state and local agencies, such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and state utility commissions. But PHMSA is the primary entity responsible for seeking to ensure that pipelines are safe, reliable, and environmentally sound under federal laws.

The Construction Process

In addition to selecting a route, meeting regulatory requirements and designing a pipeline, operators face many more issues

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NPMS Launches iPhone app for PIMMA

The National Pipeline Mapping System has launched an iPhone app for PIMMA. It can be accessed by searching for "pipeline information" on the App store. You will need your PIMMA username and password to use the PIMMA iPhone app. To access the National Pipeline Mapping System online and locate transmission pipelines in your area, please go to **https://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov/**

Did you know...

811 is the nationally recognized three digit number to provide notification of pending excavation activity so that utilities can properly locate underground assets. Help us spread the word for safety... ***Call 811 before you dig!***

811®
Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

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including, but not limited to, site preparation, pipe stringing, trenching, bending, welding, coating, lowering and backfilling, testing and site restoration. Each step must be executed correctly and the newly constructed pipeline must be tested and inspected for safety and operational integrity.

Pipeline and energy infrastructure projects can be delayed for years due to environmental, legal, political and activist opposition. Recent examples abound. Indeed such delays occur almost immediately when energy projects are first announced. As such, with greater public awareness and activism, it is incumbent on pipeline operators and construction companies to continually exercise good stewardship at every step, from design all the way through actual installation and operation.

Today's project teams employ many functional experts to successfully site and permit projects. Land and ROW personnel have the best information possible on topography and the environment that will be affected, as well as socio-economic impacts. Critical issues need to be assessed early by all team members and addressed by legal, regulatory, environmental and other personnel. If there are nearby water bodies, aquifers, sacred Native American sites, schools, churches, retirement homes, agricultural or other issues, they must be identified early, and be given special consideration.

In the planning phase for construction, coordination with emergency responders has become a key element. Not only are the impacts of the construction activity required to be communicated to emergency responders, today's environment also requires working with local response officials on the development of security plans to be implemented during construction. Additionally, communications are initiated with local emergency responders to discuss emergency response plans for when the facility is being commissioned and operated.

When construction finally begins, land, environment and site restoration issues must be continually monitored and addressed by operators and construction companies alike, with input and feedback from regulators, emergency response agencies and other affected parties, such as the public. The more input that can be provided from the start, the sooner a project can start fulfilling our nation's demand for energy.

Keeping Pipelines Safe/ Practices & Protocols: Wildfires and Pipelines

After the devastating fires in California in 2017, it's no surprise that

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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://PA-inforequest.kindermorgan.com**

NOTE

If you would like to be added to *The Responder* distribution list, please click **here**

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emergency response and pipeline safety related to wildfires has been brought into focus. As part of the commitment to emergency preparedness, pipeline operators plan for and establish procedures for responding to a wide variety of natural disasters.

Fire crews, using controlled burns, create a barrier in the foothills of Carpinteria, California, in the hopes of containing the Thomas fire.

Preparing for disasters such as wildfires begins in the pre-planning stages of a pipeline. Prior to construction, operators complete comprehensive hazard identification and risk assessments for pipelines they construct and operate. The purpose of these assessments is to identify potential risks and disasters that might occur, and to develop plans for mitigating each scenario. It is critical that this pre-planning involve local response officials, other energy companies and their operations, and land and right-of-way personnel. This step requires significant time to fully and thoroughly assess issues and impacts.

Day-to-day communication, maintenance of pipeline infrastructure, a solid awareness of natural events vs. risk, and a thorough understanding of disaster response and business continuity plans – plus regular training – can go a long way toward successfully mitigating or overcoming a disaster. Prior to any natural disaster, companies exercise the best possible operational and safety practices and strictly adhere to integrity management and disaster-recovery plans for their assets such as pipelines, compression and surface facilities, storage and refining centers, and drilling and production infrastructure.

When wildfires do occur, pipeline companies request first responders locate the operator on the nearest pipeline marker and notify them immediately if a fire is burning on or near a pipeline right-of-way. The majority of pipeline infrastructure is underground and is not threatened by wildfires, but above ground facilities such as valves and compressor or pump stations are of concern, and it's important for operators to be notified so they may respond accordingly.

There are certain steps that pipeline operators do take, depending on the nature of the fire, to protect their system. In an effort to prevent the area from catching fire, operators may attempt to bury above ground valves, or in areas where wildfires are identified as a threat, gravel may be placed around above ground facilities as it is

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First Responder Online Pipeline Training

To access the API-AOPL Emergency Response Team's free online training, click **https://nasfm-training.org/**

NOTE

To read past issues of *The Responder,* please go to the archived issues at **http://www.kindermorgan.com/pages/public_awareness/The_Responder/archive.aspx**

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less flammable than grass. Where permitted, operators may remove brush, trees, wood debris, and dead vegetation from along the pipeline right-of-way to create fire breaks. The hope is that these open areas present obstacles, or areas that may not burn, ideally preventing the spread of fire.

When fighting wildfires, it is critical that first responders and pipeline operators keep an open line of communication to discuss potential hazards associated with response strategies, such as fire breaks, by clearing brush and other vegetation. It is also imperative that emergency responders notify operators prior to moving any heavy vehicles or equipment across the pipeline right-of-way in order to avoid any excessive loading of the pipeline.

Ultimately, if there is a significant threat to the pipeline or infrastructure, operators may suspend service on a segment of pipeline to mitigate the impact. This can be accomplished by utilizing automatic shut off valves, or manually closing in a segment of the pipeline. ■

Kinder Morgan Social Media

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