Pipeline Emergency Response Resources

Pennsylvania Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force
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The Goal

- Awareness of pipeline safety issues among all stakeholders, including public officials, emergency responders, excavators, and the public
- Community preparedness in the event of a major pipeline emergency

The Challenge

- Pipelines are out of sight, out of mind
- Public safety officials have many competing concerns and limited resources
- “Odor of gas” calls may be common, but major pipeline incidents are relatively rare
- Catastrophic pipeline incidents are low probability, high consequence events

PHMSA Regulations

- PHMSA regulations require pipeline operators to maintain liaison with emergency responders
- PHMSA regulations require operators to conduct public awareness outreach to:
  - affected public
  - **local public officials**
  - excavators
  - **emergency officials**
- NOTE: Public awareness regulations do not require anything of audience groups

PHMSA's Partnership with Pennsylvania

- PHMSA's partner is the Pennsylvania PUC
  - PHMSA covers up to 80% of the costs of state pipeline safety program through PHMSA's State Pipeline Safety Grants
- The PUC conducts public awareness & other regulatory inspections for:
  - Natural gas distribution pipelines
  - Class 1-4 intrastate natural gas transmission pipelines
  - Class 2, 3, & 4 gathering pipelines

Public Safety Officials' Responsibilities

- Effective pipeline emergency response is a **shared responsibility**
  - State and local public safety officials have a responsibility to engage, understand their role
- **Communication before an incident** occurs is the most important aspect of effective pipeline emergency response
- Communication on-scene is essential during an incident response (ICS is effective)

How do we get local governments to pay attention?

- Create **sustainable** pipeline awareness solutions
  - Pursue initiatives that *require* and *empower* local governments to engage through **existing channels**
    - Training standards for public safety personnel
    - Include pipelines in hazard mitigation plans
    - Regulation (one-call enforcement, pipeline safety regulations, etc.)
    - Communications through existing channels – messages to specific stakeholders through organizations they trust
- **Resources** for local governments
  - Training materials
  - Information resources
  - Common messages that apply to all pipelines

Forward Progress: Resources

- Training standards
  - National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 472 – Competencies for hazmat responders
  - National Emergency Number Association (NENA) Standard 56-007 – Pipeline emergency protocol for 911 call-takers
- Multiple local, regional, and national efforts to institutionalize local government engagement (some with PHMSA Technical Assistance Grant support – http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/tag)
- PHMSA's Public Awareness Program Working Group
- Industry efforts (API/AOPL, INGAA, AGA, APGA)
  - API Recommended Practice 1174

Forward Progress: Resources

- PHMSA's Stakeholder Communications Website
  - https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/
- Article on Pipeline Emergency Response
  - http://www.firefighternation.com/article/hazardous-material-cbrn/pipeline-emergency-planning-response-tools
- National Pipeline Mapping System
  - http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov
- *Pipeline Emergencies* Training Curriculum
  - http://www.pipelineemergencies.com
- Call 811 Before You Dig
  - http://www.call811.com

Forward Progress: Resources

- Hazard Mitigation Planning: Practices for Land Use Planning and Development near Pipelines
  - https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/101688
- Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance
  - http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/pipa
- Emergency Response Guidebook
  - http://phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/library/erg
- Landowner's Guide to Pipeline Safety
  - http://pstrust.org/about-pipelines1/landowners-guide-to-pipelines
- Georgia Pipeline Emergency Response Initiative (GPERI)
  - http://www.gpstc.org/training-divisions/georgia-pipeline-emergency-response-initiative-gperi-training
- Case Study: Lafayette, IN Natural Gas Pipeline Explosion
  - http://youtu.be/y1TibjFOToM

Signs of a Pipeline Leak/Rupture

- Hissing, roaring, or explosive sound
- Flames appearing from the ground or water (perhaps very large flames)
- Vapor cloud/fog/mist
- Dirt/debris/water blowing out of the ground
- Liquids bubbling up from the ground or bubbling in water
- Distinctive, unusually strong odor of rotten eggs, skunk, or petroleum
- Discolored/dead vegetation or snow above a pipeline right-of-way
- Oil slick or sheen on flowing/standing water

Basics of Pipeline Emergency Response

- Immediately evacuate area and move far away – upwind and away from flames
- If no flames present, do not introduce sources of ignition
- Abandon equipment used in/near area
- Do not drive into vapor clouds
- Call 911
- Notify pipeline operator
- Never attempt to extinguish flame before shutting off supply, as this can cause formation of explosive mixtures of air and hazardous materials
- Never attempt to operate pipeline valves, as this could prolong/worsen incident–or cause another pipeline leak

Thank You

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