

THE pipeline connection

for Emergency Responders

summer 2016



SCPERI

South Carolina Pipeline Emergency Response Initiative

RESOURCES FOR RESPONDERS



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“ *there’s no harm in hoping for the best as long as you’re prepared for the worst.* ”

— Stephen King

While pipeline emergencies are not a common occurrence, they can and do happen. So how do we bring together emergency responders and pipeline operators to enhance pre-planning and training for when an incident occurs? Enter, the South Carolina Pipeline Emergency Response Initiative or SCPERI. On November 2, 2015, representatives from the emergency response community, natural gas and highly volatile liquids pipeline operators, federal and state regulatory officials, and SC811 met at the South Carolina Fire Academy in Columbia to begin discussions related to enhancing coordination, training and preparedness.

A steering committee was formed and began regular meetings to forge the effort. Using a very successful program developed in the state of Georgia as a model, the steering committee has begun to develop goals and various components of the

program. A training curriculum based on the “Pipeline Emergencies” training program which was developed through a collaborative effort of the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) and the Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), is being developed. While training will be conducted by designated emergency response community instructors, the program will be actively supported by representatives of the various pipeline operators in South Carolina.

The steering committee is planning to develop a training program that is tiered similar to existing HAZMAT training which will deliver content appropriate to all disciplines in the

emergency response community. For example, an “Awareness Level” course will be developed for law enforcement officers, while an “Operations/ Technician Level” course will be created for fire department and hazardous materials team personnel. Above all, the intent is to have useful training that enhances awareness, response capabilities, and safety for all involved.

Be on the lookout for more information concerning the SCPERI initiative. For more information, or to volunteer to support the effort, please contact Glen Boatwright at 803-323-5439 or at glen.boatwright@ycnga.com



Who's Pipeline is it Anyway?

SAFE PIPELINE OPERATIONS-IDENTIFICATION OF PIPELINES DURING EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RESPONSE

Did you realize that there are multiple operators of pipelines in our area? If your agency is dispatched to a call of a pipeline emergency, how would you know which operator is involved and what product is being transported? All pipelines are required by federal pipeline safety regulations to be marked with pipeline markers and signage.

On pipeline signage, you will be able to identify the name of the operator, a telephone number that is answered 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week and the name of the product being transported in the pipeline. Pipeline markers are located at road crossings, railroad crossings, and along the right-of-way so that the pipeline is readily identifiable. It is important to note that the marker does not indicate the exact location of the buried pipeline — only that a pipeline exists in the vicinity. Keep in mind also, that there may be multiple pipelines operated by different companies in the same or adjacent rights of way.



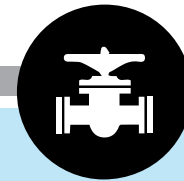
Area Pipeline Operators

NATURAL GAS:	York County Natural Gas Authority	(866) 201-1001
	Patriots Energy Group	(888) 609-9858
	Lancaster Natural Gas Authority	(803) 285-2045
	Chester Natural Gas Authority	(803) 385-3157
	Dominion Carolina Gas Transmission	(800) 789-7272

HIGHLY VOLATILE LIQUIDS (HVL)	Colonial Pipeline	(800) 926-2728
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LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG)	Plains All American Pipeline	(800) 708-5071
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As a reminder, emergency responders can register with the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) and obtain location information for the liquids and natural gas transmission pipelines that operate in their coverage area. The NPMS can be found at: <https://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov/>.



Pipelines in Your Community

Understanding where pipelines are located, potential hazards and how to identify and respond to a potential leak will keep your community safe.

Underground pipelines are everywhere. More than two million miles of pipelines crisscross the United States safely transporting natural gas, gasoline and other products every day. According to the National Transportation Safety Board, pipelines are the safest mode of fuel transportation, both for the public and the environment.

York County Natural Gas Authority and the Patriots Energy Group, which comprises Authorities in York, Lancaster and Chester, monitor operations 24-hours a day, every day. We ensure public safety and safe pipeline operations through employee training, regular testing, right-of-way patrols and adherence to our comprehensive Integrity Management plan and procedures.

For information concerning the location of natural gas distribution lines you must contact the system operator directly.

Initial Intake and First Response to Natural Gas Emergencies

When a call is received by a 911 operator concerning a potential natural gas emergency, timely and safe response of required resources is of utmost concern. York County Natural Gas Authority recently developed a "Pipeline Operations — Recommended Protocol – Initial Intake and First Response Checklist" for response to notifications of emergencies involving natural gas. This document was developed based on guidance contained in the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) Pipeline Emergency Operations Standard/Model Recommendation.



When an emergency dispatcher receives a call concerning a potential gas emergency, there are three primary goals:

1

IDENTIFY THE PRECISE LOCATION

of the incident so that emergency responders can be quickly and accurately dispatched

2

DETERMINE WHAT HAPPENED

so that the right resources can be dispatched

3

ENSURE THAT THE CALLER IS IN A SAFE LOCATION

and away from potential ignition sources

The intent behind the protocol is to provide dispatchers with a quick reference tool that will aid in obtaining critical response information as well as provide instructions to callers to ensure their safety. In addition, the information obtained by the dispatcher can assist the Authority operations personnel with determining the nature of the emergency so that proper resources can be sent to the scene.

The protocol is currently under review by York County and Rock Hill City emergency dispatch personnel as well as others from the emergency response community and will be finalized soon. Following finalization of the document, training for dispatchers will be conducted.

Natural Gas Leak Prank Calls



Recently, several instances of prank telephone calls to fast food restaurants have occurred around the country purportedly from callers identifying themselves as "gas company representatives." The caller then directs the establishment management to break out the windows of the structure due to a natural gas leak. Sadly, in these instances, the restaurant personnel have followed the directive when in fact no leak was present. While none of these incidents have occurred in York County, they are becoming more widespread and worthy of notice.

Under no circumstances would York County Natural Gas Authority personnel direct a customer to break out all of the windows in their structure as a response measure to a gas leak. Whenever we receive notice of a potential gas leak our personnel respond quickly to the location and use instrumentation to thoroughly check for the presence of leaking natural gas. All of our employees have identification badges and can easily be recognized as representing York County Natural Gas Authority. In addition, the natural gas that we transport to customers is odorized with a material called Mercaptan which gives it a unique sulfur or "rotten egg" odor that aids in leak detection. Obviously, if a leak is detected by recognition of the odor, safety precautions including evacuations should be implemented.



**YCNGA 24-HOUR EMERGENCY:
866-201-1001**

Please feel free to call us at any time if you have questions concerning procedures for response to natural gas leak reports.

UNSEEN Dangers of Migrating Gas Underground

Striking a gas line has certain obvious dangers, but there is another danger to leaking gas that might not be visible to the naked eye. Natural gas is methane – CH₄, which is lighter than air and will rise into the atmosphere. Leaking gas can become **trapped** underground by concrete, asphalt, or even a layer of frost and, as a result, may migrate underground for long distances. In this way, it can escape to the atmosphere or enter buildings at a distance from the original leak site. It can even enter the sewer system or underground electrical or communications conduits and travel long distances, eventually entering structures far from the strike zone. Avoid parking company vehicles over electric or sewer manholes where migrating gas may have accumulated. The vehicles could easily provide an ignition source, endangering responders or employees working on repairs.



Migrating gas underground... *What should you do?*

GAS IN MANHOLES, VAULTS, AND SEWERS

- 1. NOTIFY THE GAS COMPANY IMMEDIATELY**
Company personnel can assist in identifying and determining the source of gas involved. They have the ability to distinguish between pipeline gas, gasoline vapors, sewer gas and cable-burnout gases.
- 2. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO EXTINGUISH FLAMES** if gas becomes ignited, unless life is in jeopardy. Burning gas will not explode.
- 3. DO NOT PARK NEAR OR OVER A MANHOLE OR CATCH BASIN** where there is a suspected gas leak.
- 4. SPRAY ANY BURNING OR COMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL** in the area of the vault.
- 5. ROPE OR BARRICADE A SAFE AREA AROUND THE VAULT**
Keep bystanders away. Prohibit smoking. Restrict or reroute traffic.
- 6. TAKE PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT SPARKS** that may be caused when manhole covers are removed.
- 7. NEVER ENTER A MANHOLE, VAULT, OR SEWER** if gasses or vapors are even suspected to be present. Always have the atmosphere of a manhole, vault, or sewer checked with a combustible gas detector before anyone enters.

Training Opportunities for your Department



York County Natural Gas Authority personnel are available to provide training to local emergency responders on how to safely handle a pipeline emergency. Please feel free

to contact us for more information or to schedule a training session.

CONTACT:

Glen Boatwright

York County Natural Gas Authority
Director of Regulatory Compliance
(803) 323-5439
glen.boatwright@ycnga.com

Important Numbers to Know

York County Natural Gas	Emergency Phone Line	(866) 201-1001
York County Natural Gas	Non-Emergency Phone Line	(803) 323-5304
Patriots Energy Group	Emergency Phone Line	(888) 609-9858
Chester County Natural Gas	Non-Emergency Phone Line	(803) 385-3157
Lancaster County Natural Gas	Non-Emergency Phone Line	(803) 285-2045

How to get more information - Useful Links

York County Natural Gas	www.ycnga.com
Patriots Energy Group	www.patriotsenergy.com
Chester County Natural Gas	www.chestergas.com
Lancaster County Natural Gas	www.lcngasc.com
SC811	www.sc811.com
National Pipeline Mapping System	www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov
USDOT Pipeline Safety	primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/EmergencyOfficials.htm