

fall 2016

THE pipeline connection

for Emergency Responders

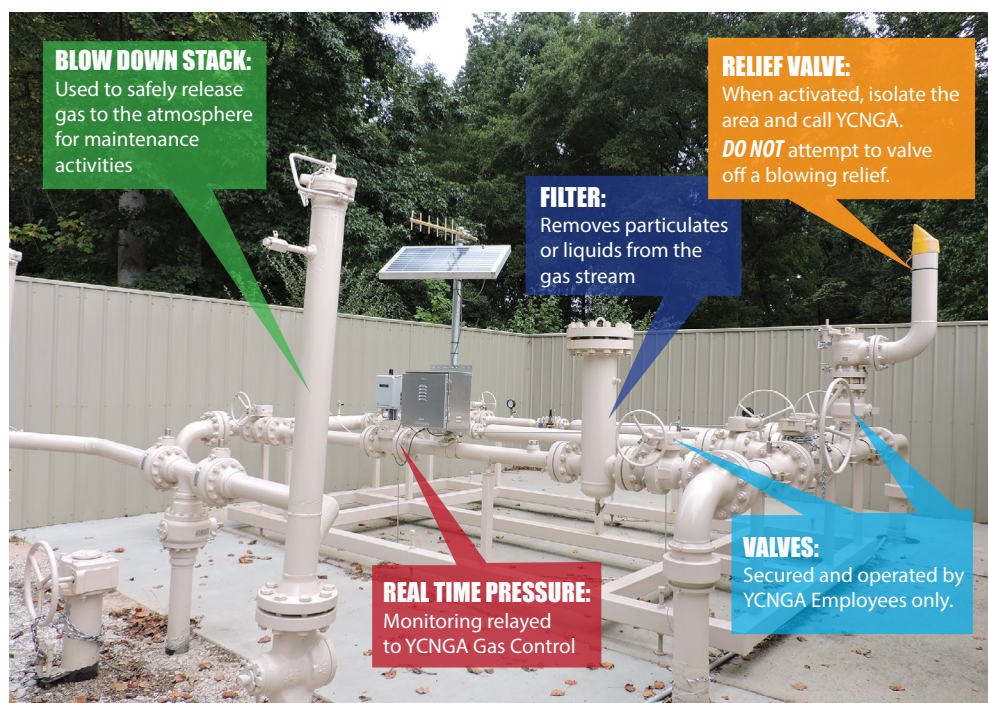


R E S O U R C E S F O R R E S P O N D E R S

Pipeline Stations... What's behind the Fence?

You pass by them every day, but may have never thought about that array of piping behind the fence of a York County Natural Gas Authority regulator station. What happens inside the gate? As an emergency responder, what should you know in the event of an incident?

Our stations serve primarily two types of functions, pressure regulation and product delivery. Through pressure regulation we have the capability to deliver natural gas service at the pressure required by our downstream customers. We also have the ability to monitor this pressure delivery, as well as flow rates of natural gas through the station. In many cases our regulator stations can also serve as purchase points. These facilities provide exchange of ownership to customers that are typically large volume users of natural gas such as businesses or manufacturing sites.



So, what if something unusual is occurring?

As a responder, what should you do? First, call York County Natural Gas Authority at **1-866-201-1001**. We'll quickly dispatch trained and qualified personnel to respond and assist with handling the situation. Should a relief valve blow and release natural gas to the atmosphere, it is best to isolate the area and allow our trained technicians to enter the station and safely alleviate the condition.

In the rare event of a fire in a station, again, the best tactical response is to notify our personnel and secure the area. We will safely isolate the station to eliminate the fuel source, which will extinguish the fire.

As always, if you have specific questions concerning our facilities or operations, do not hesitate to contact us. As our partners in safety, we are always happy to assist you!

12 Tactical Tips for Responding to a Natural Gas Pipeline Emergency

While natural gas pipeline emergencies are not common, they can occur. Here are 12 tactical tips to help you respond safely in the event of an emergency:

1. **Eliminate all ignition sources** including cell phones, radios, vehicle engines and anything else that can create a spark when a pipeline leak is suspected.
2. **Isolate the area**
Monitor wind direction and establish a safe perimeter at the site.
3. **Use a combustible gas indicator (CGI) or multi-gas unit to determine the location of gas.**
A CGI should always be used when entering a building suspected of containing leaking gas.
4. **Use the Incident Command System structure for managing the emergency.**
5. **Immediately notify the pipeline company if no operating personnel are present.** Telephone numbers for contacting the pipeline operator are located on nearby markers and above ground facility signage.



6. **Conduct critique sessions with other emergency responders and pipeline personnel following response to an incident.**
7. **Don't force-ventilate structures that have natural gas accumulation.**
Forced ventilation using attic fans may lead to introduction of oxygen in an uncontrolled manner. Always use natural ventilation to allow natural gas to dissipate.
8. **Consider the risk of gas migration during response to a below ground natural gas leak.**
9. **Don't attempt to extinguish a burning natural gas fire with water.** Isolation of the fuel source is the best method for extinguishing the fire.
10. **Don't attempt to isolate pipeline valves upstream from a single meter set.** Allow qualified pipeline company personnel to operate valves.
11. **Don't attempt to restrict or isolate blowing pressure relief valves.**
A blowing relief is functioning as designed and is safely dissipating excess natural gas pressure to the atmosphere. Isolate the area and allow trained pipeline company personnel to remedy the operational upset.
12. **Don't operate vehicles or other equipment in areas where natural gas leaks are suspected.**

NOW OFFERING LUNCH - OR - DINNER SEMINARS

Pipeline Safety & EMERGENCY RESPONSE SEMINAR

CLICK TO REGISTER
for lunch:

Wednesday, November 2
12noon-1:30pm

OR

CLICK TO REGISTER
for dinner:

Thursday, November 3
6:30-8:00pm

Register Now...

FOR THE PIPELINE SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE SEMINAR

This year, per your request, we're holding TWO sessions to accommodate all schedules. Sign up for either

- **LUNCH:** Wednesday, November 2 (12noon-1:30pm) — or
- **DINNER:** Thursday, November 3 (6:30pm-8:00pm)

The same topics will be covered at each session. Information will be shared on coordinating and responding to a natural gas emergency with highlights and footage from the Patriots Energy Group Mock Drill held in July. A take home tabletop exercise will be provided. Come early and visit various stations set up to share information on damage awareness, pipeline locations, CNG vehicles, and emergency response equipment used by YCNGA.

The seminars are free and include lunch/dinner and... as always, great door prizes!

Register now online — or contact Patty Christie at (803) 323-5391 or patty.christie@ycnga.com

Patriots Energy Group Conducts Full-Scale Mock Emergency Drill

Patriots Energy Group (PEG), a joint action agency comprised of York County Natural Gas Authority, Chester County Natural Gas Authority, and Lancaster County Natural Gas Authority conducted a full scale mock emergency drill in mid-July. The exercise, the first of its kind for Patriots Energy Group,

“
...the exercise scenario involved a tandem axle dump truck crashing into a natural gas regulator station...”

involved public sector response agencies, as well as Dominion Carolina Gas Transmission and Plains All American Pipeline.

The trigger event for the exercise scenario involved a tandem axle dump truck crashing into a natural gas regulator station located on Adnah Church Road resulting in major damage to three pipeline facilities and a large release of natural gas. Later, as the exercise

unfolded, the natural gas ignited resulting in a fatality, further complicating the response to the incident.

While events unfolded at the incident site adjacent to Adnah Church Road, York County Natural Gas Authority, the operator of the PEG pipeline system, activated its Corporate Response Team at headquarters to begin strategic support of the company incident commander and the situation.



In addition, the management team was tasked with addressing overall impacts to the natural gas supply resulting from the simulated incident. During the exercise, Customer Service personnel received over 50 calls from parties portraying concerned citizens, regulatory officials, customers, and the news media. In addition, staged news reporters challenged company personnel at the incident scene and at the company corporate office. Social media inputs were also provided to execute this growing area of emergency management communications and focus.

This type of detailed exercise provides a unique opportunity to test Patriots Energy Group's ability to respond and effectively manage a significant event affecting natural gas system operations. The exercise also provides the chance to interact with public sector emergency responders, testing execution of the incident command system, crisis communications, and inter-agency coordination.

Over the coming weeks, Patriots Energy Group will be identifying areas for improvement and associated action items to further enhance its emergency management program and ability to respond to a significant emergency.





PLEASE REPORT STRUCTURE FIRES

We Need Your Help

York County Natural Gas Authority is required to report structure fires to our insurance carrier for investigation of potential natural gas involvement.

We would greatly appreciate your assistance in this effort by sending us notice of structure fires you may be working.

Please forward structure fire notifications/ fire reports to lauren.miller@ycnga.com. Thank you for your assistance!

November is South Carolina CO Awareness Month

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that kills without warning, claiming the lives of hundreds of people every year.

In 2013, carbon monoxide took the life of young Jeffrey Williams in a hotel room in Boone, NC. Jeffrey was the nephew of Dennis Williams, Service Supervisor at York County Natural Gas.

The Williams family formed the Jeffrey Lee Williams Foundation in 2014 to help prevent CO poisoning by increasing public awareness of carbon monoxide dangers. Volunteers from the Foundation use donations to



distribute free CO detectors in targeted areas.

Carbon monoxide is produced by the incomplete burning of various fuels, including coal, wood, charcoal, oil, kerosene, propane, and natural gas. Deaths and illnesses are completely preventable with the proper installation and maintenance of a CO detector.

York County Natural Gas Authority now includes a CO detector with every appliance purchased and installed. This effort supports the Foundation's mission to help prevent the unseen dangers of carbon monoxide.

Responding to Residential Carbon Monoxide Incidents

A CO alarm should never be ignored or considered a false alarm. CO levels can build up quickly and immediate evacuation is necessary when a CO alarm sounds.



Know the Symptoms of CO Poisoning

Low levels of carbon monoxide exposure can cause shortness of breath, mild nausea, fatigue, and mild headaches. Moderate levels can cause headaches, drowsiness, nausea, vomiting, confusion, dizziness, or light-headedness. Severe cases of carbon monoxide poisoning can result in unconsciousness and death.

CONTACT US:

York County Natural Gas Authority

Emergency..... (866) 201-1001
Non-Emergency..... (803) 323-5304
Website ycnga.com

Patriots Energy Group

Emergency..... (888) 609-9858
Website patriotsenergy.com

Chester County Natural Gas Authority

Non-Emergency..... (803) 385-3157
Website chestergas.com

Lancaster County Natural Gas Authority

Non-Emergency..... (803) 285-2045
Website lcnasc.com

SC811

In York County (888) 721-7877
Website SC811.com

National Pipeline System

nps.phmsa.dot.gov

USDOT Pipeline Safety

primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/EmergencyOfficials.htm



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.

C O N T A C T :

Glen Boatwright

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