

The Pipeline Connection

FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS



Issue 1

Summer 2015

Welcome to the Pipeline Connection!

At York County Natural Gas Authority, we value our relationship with our safety partners- you the emergency response community! While pipeline emergencies are rare, they can occur and if they do, we want to make sure you have all of the information you need to safely and effectively respond.

The Pipeline Connection is an electronic newsletter that is targeted to our local emergency responders providing a variety of useful information specifically related to response to pipeline emergencies. The newsletter will contain information on pipeline operations, Incident Command, tactical response recommendations, properties of natural gas, crisis communications, and a host of other useful topics.

We are providing The Pipeline Connection in an email and Adobe PDF format so that it can be widely shared in your department. We will also include a link in each issue to request being added to the distribution list.

Once a year, we plan to distribute a survey to our readers and solicit feedback concerning topic suggestions as well as any best practices that our area emergency responders are currently implementing.

We hope you find The Pipeline Connection to be a useful tool to enhance your response capability and serve as our partners in safety!

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Carbon Monoxide - The Invisible Danger

Carbon Monoxide incidents account for an increasing number of fire department responses each year. CO is not only a colorless, odorless and invisible gas, but a toxin with symptoms so elusive that up to half of all CO poisoned patients are routinely misdiagnosed by EMS and emergency department physicians.

Carbon monoxide is a dangerous gas that you cannot smell or see. It is produced as a common by-product of the combustion (burning) of fossil fuels. Most fuel burning equipment if properly installed and maintained, produces little carbon monoxide. The by-products of combustion are usually safely vented to the outside. However, if there is a shortage of oxygen to the burner, or the venting is not adequate, carbon monoxide production can increase to dangerous levels. *Continued Page 3...*

be
carbon
monoxide
aware





Safe Pipeline Operation-Damage Prevention



Outside force damage is a leading cause of pipeline incidents. Despite the fact that pipeline operators like York County Natural Gas Authority take extensive measures to protect their systems and educate the public about damage prevention, incidents still occur. In the U.S., every six minutes an underground utility is damaged by someone who didn't call 811 before they excavated.

York County Natural Gas Authority has a comprehensive damage prevention program. We regularly patrol our pipelines to ensure safety and prevent any unauthorized excavations which could damage our system. We also have an on-going public education program that focuses on safety and damage prevention.

The Palmetto Utility Protection Service otherwise known as PUPS administers the 811 "Call Before You Dig" program for our state. Excavators are required by state law to give notice three business days prior to conducting any excavation activities so that utilities can mark their underground assets. This is a free service provided by the utilities.

As our partners in safety, we want you to be aware of the threat to our pipelines from outside force damage and ask for your help to spread the word about the need to call 811 prior to any excavation activity. If you observe excavation activities occurring near our pipeline markers, we encourage you to check with the excavator to ensure that 811 has been called and the pipelines marked. While damage to our system can result in loss of service to our customers, our primary concern is safety. We don't want anyone injured from an excavation related incident.

The SC811 Mobile App is now available for both Android and Apple users



App Features Include:

Locate Notice Entry, Check and Update to 360 Positive Response, KorWeb, Damage Reporting Tool, Member List, SC Law, and More...

*Because of our proximity to North Carolina, it is best to dial **1-888-721-7877** when using a cell phone in York County to reach SC811.*



This official logo should be displayed on all NGV's to aid in identification.



A Quick Lesson on CNG - Compressed Natural Gas

Natural Gas powers more than 12 million vehicles on the road today. These vehicles are easily identified by a diamond shaped CNG logo typically found on the rear bumper. CNG is simply natural gas compressed to less than 1% of its volume and used as an alternative to gasoline. Consisting mostly of methane, CNG is odorless, colorless and tasteless, but an odorant called mercaptain is added to assist in detecting a leak.

CNG is flammable, but has a narrow flammability range making it an inherently safe fuel. Strict safety standards make CNG vehicles as safe as gasoline-powered vehicles. In the event of a spill or accidental release, CNG poses no threat to land or water, as it is nontoxic. CNG also disperses rapidly, minimizing ignition risk when compared to gasoline. Natural gas is lighter than air and will not pool as a liquid or vapor.

Pipeline Incident Emergency Response Securing the Scene

While pipeline emergencies are rare, they can occur. Above all, we want local emergency responders to understand how to safely respond and secure the scene should an incident happen. Here are some recommendations for initial response to a pipeline emergency:



- Locate pipeline operator personnel at the scene. If the pipeline operator's representative is not present when you arrive, obtain the emergency telephone number which is located on nearby pipeline markers. From a safe, upwind location, notify the operator of the emergency and request assistance.
- Isolate the surrounding area. Prevent unauthorized persons from entering any hazardous locations. If natural gas is entering a structure, evacuate the occupants immediately and direct them to a safe location.
- Eliminate ignition sources including pilot lights, matches, cigarette lighters, highway flares, sparks from tools, doorbells, cell phones, pagers, two-way radios, heating systems, electric motors, switches, and vehicle engines. Remember that anything that can create a spark may cause a fire when exposed to natural gas at certain concentrations.
- Never attempt to put out a burning natural gas fire with water. The only effective method to extinguish the fire is to eliminate the fuel source. Only trained and qualified pipeline operator personnel should operate valves.

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.



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Responding to Residential Carbon Monoxide Incidents

Safe Entry

If residents are inside the house, follow procedures for safe entry before determining the condition of the residents.

Determine the Level of Care Needed by Household Members

Symptoms of moderate CO poisoning are similar to those of the flu and can be misdiagnosed. Physical symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning vary, depending on the amount in the bloodstream - the higher the concentration, the higher the danger.

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.

If not already dispatched request EMS if any signs or symptoms are exhibited.

Identify potential sources of elevated CO in the home

Sources typically include fuel burning equipment (natural gas, gasoline, propane, fuel oil and wood) and can be caused by: engines running in attached garages; unvented or poorly maintained appliances; problems with heating system design or installation, improper modifications, and blocked or failed chimneys.

Signs of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning



Headaches



Nausea



Dizziness



Breathlessness



Collapse



Loss of
Consciousness

RESOURCES FOR RESPONDERS- Electronic Resources for Response to a Hazardous Materials Incident

It seems that we are becoming dependent on electronic tools for reference at an ever increasing rate. Whether it's the iPhone, iPad, laptop or a host of other "e-tools", we are all dependent on the instant access provided by these prolific devices. For those serving in the emergency response community, there are several resources that are available to assist in response to a hazardous materials incident-including a pipeline emergency. The best part – they're free!

WISER

Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders

The Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders, also known as "WISER", is a database which is managed by the National Library of Medicine contains detailed information on hundreds of hazardous substances.

The WISER system provides responders with appropriate information based on one of three roles that they will be performing at the scene of an incident:

- First Responder
- Hazmat Specialist
- Emergency Medical Specialist

Information on WISER can be found at:
<http://wiser.nlm.nih.gov/>

ERG

U.S. Department of Transportation's Emergency Response Guidebook

When faced with identification of hazardous materials during an emergency, responders have relied for years on the venerable U.S. Department of Transportation's Emergency Response Guidebook otherwise known as the "ERG". This manual which is published every four years by the DOT, provides useful information to initially respond to a hazmat incident. Dating back to the 2008 publishing, the ERG contains several pages of information concerning pipeline safety and emergency response. The ERG is available in a free of charge PDF format through the DOT at:

<http://tinyurl.com/qbpr5b9>

It is also available commercially in smart phone application formats.

NPMS

National Pipeline Mapping System

A final resource available to local emergency responders is the National Pipeline Mapping System, also known as the NPMS. The Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) collects pipeline location data from natural gas transmission and hazardous liquids pipelines and makes it available through the NPMS. The general public can use the NPMS to discover if pipelines are operated in the vicinity of their property but they cannot access specific pipeline location information. Public sector responders can access pipeline location information through the system by means of an assigned login and password. It is important to note that the NPMS provides information on natural gas transmission and hazardous liquids pipelines but does not contain information on natural gas distribution systems. For access to the NPMS go to:
<https://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov/>

How to Get More Information - Useful Links

York County Natural Gas

[Patriots Energy Group](#)

Chester County Natural Gas

[Lancaster County Natural Gas](#)

SC811

[National Pipeline Mapping System](#)

[USDOT Pipeline Safety](#)

www.ycnga.com

www.patriotsenergy.com

www.chestergas.com

www.lcngasc.com

www.sc811.com

www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov

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

Important Numbers to Know

York County Natural Gas

[York County Natural Gas](#)

[Patriots Energy Group](#)

[Chester County Natural Gas](#)

[Lancaster County Natural Gas](#)

Emergency Phone Line

[Non-Emergency Phone Line](#)

Emergency Phone Line

[Non-Emergency Phone Line](#)

Non-Emergency Phone Line

866.201.1001

[803.323.5304](#)

888.609.9858

[803.385.3157](#)

803.285.2045

