

5 PRIORITIES

FOR MANAGING A PIPELINE INCIDENT

1

SAFETY FIRST

Your safety – and the safety of the community you protect – **is top priority.**

Remember to approach upwind, uphill and upstream while using air monitoring equipment. Never operate pipeline valves (except while under the direct instruction from the pipeline operator). This could make the incident worse and put yourself, your team and the public in danger.

2

ISOLATE THE AREA & SIZE UP THE INCIDENT

Secure the site and determine a plan to evacuate or shelter-in-place.

Work with other first responders to deny entry to area. Note any obvious sources of the spill, immediate affected areas and likely pathways of travel.

3

IDENTIFY THE OPERATOR & PRODUCT

Pipeline markers may be used to identify the operator, product transported and emergency contact information. Remember there may be a variety of products flowing through a single pipeline. Identification of the product will also help you determine the appropriate distance for isolation of the affected area.

4

CONTACT THE OPERATOR

Contact the pipeline operator using the emergency contact information on the pipeline marker to report the incident and request additional resources.

5

PREPARE AND WORK THE PLAN

Implement the Incident Command System and begin developing the plan. Establish a Unified Command as additional stakeholders arrive.

Access free pipeline emergency response training at nasfm-training.org/pipeline/

5 PRIORITIES FOR MANAGING A PIPELINE INCIDENT

1. SAFETY FIRST

- Plan for the safety of response personnel and the public. Consider whether evacuation or shelter in place is necessary.
- Approach the incident scene upwind, uphill and upstream.
- Use appropriate PPE and air monitoring equipment.
- To establish a safe perimeter around the incident site, reference the Emergency Response Guidebook and expand the perimeter as required.
- Employ defensive response tactics until you have the information you need for an aggressive response.
- Do not operate any pipeline valves, unless directed by the operator.

2. ISOLATE THE AREA & SIZE UP THE INCIDENT

- Secure the site and keep in mind the potential for incident expansion.
- Establish Hot, Warm, and Cold zones.
- Establish security around the incident area.
- Decide who/what is allowed to be on site and where. Allow operator personnel immediate access.
- Size-up the incident.

3. IDENTIFY THE OPERATOR AND PRODUCT

- Look for pipeline markers within the immediate area. Markers can also be found near roads, railroad crossings and fences.
- Find information on operators in the area of the incident;
 - Some state one-call centers may be able to provide information
 - Contact state pipeline safety regulatory agencies
 - Search the National Pipeline Mapping System www.npms.PHMSA.dot.gov

4. CONTACT THE OPERATOR

- Exchange contact information with operator(s).
- Confirm whether the operator(s) is aware of the incident and ask whether the pipeline is shut down.
- Request SDS from the operator(s).
- Provide the location of the On Scene Command Post and staging area.
- Specify public resources/equipment that are on site and/or responding. Communicate any resource needs.
- Request what resources the operator is mobilizing and when they will arrive.
- Advise of any safety and protective measures being arranged (evacuations, traffic control and site access routes/points).

5. PREPARE AND WORK THE PLAN

- Develop an initial Incident Action Plan (IAP) based on current available information.
- Establish a Unified Command Structure.
- Establish roles, responsibilities and accountabilities.
- Consider calling for additional resources;
 - Public Works (e.g. building culvert dams and underflow dams)
 - Regional HAZMAT team (e.g. to manage large scale events)
 - Other fire departments and airports (e.g. for specific type of foam)
 - Other law enforcement agencies, (e.g. to establish security, traffic control, and assist in evacuations)
- Develop a site-safety health plan.

The Association of Oil Pipe Lines (AOPL) represents the interests of owners and operators of America's liquid pipelines. The American Petroleum Institute (API) is the only national trade association that represents all aspects of America's oil and natural gas industry.

For more information, visit www.aopl.org/emergencyresponse or please contact Karen Simon | simonk@api.org or John Stoody | jstody@aopl.org

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