



THE RESPONDER

Natural Gas Pipeline Information for Emergency Responders in Kinder Morgan Communities

HAZMAT Role is Critical During a Natural Gas Incident

The role of HAZMAT-trained responders can be critical at the scene of a pipeline incident. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires companies transporting hazardous substances, like natural gas, to train personnel in hazardous incident response techniques. Because of this, pipeline operator field personnel are often HAZMAT-trained and can supplement local response agency resources at the scene of a pipeline incident.

An operator's HAZMAT-trained personnel are designated to implement specific actions as outlined in the pipeline operator's emergency response plan including advanced control operations and decontamination.

In addition to HAZMAT-trained operator personnel, local HAZMAT Response Teams are often called to assist during a pipeline emergency. HAZMAT teams typically include HAZMAT Specialists who have advanced HAZMAT training. Their expertise includes familiarity with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the HAZMAT team, implementation of local emergency plans, knowledge of state response plans, knowledge of hazard and risk techniques, and the ability to develop site safety and control plans. Often HAZMAT Response Teams are shared resources across communities.

For more information about HAZMAT certification or training, visit the PHMSA website at <http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat>.

Planning & Coordinating a Community Drill, Part 2: Tips for Executing a Successful Drill

Earlier this year, Missouri's St. Charles County held a successful large-scale community-wide drill involving approximately 200 individuals, including 20 separate organizations and nearly 60 volunteers. The purpose of the drill was to observe how their Incident Command System (ICS) would work in a large-scale incident.

To begin planning a community drill like this, first determine the goals of the drill. Deciding whether the goal of the drill is to improve communication, define incident command hierarchy, improve response time, or educate participants will affect the drill scenario design and theme. Community drills can be comprised of table-top exercises or hands-on simulation scenarios. Work to get support and commitment on drill goals from any necessary responding organizations or agencies.

Next, review and plan out the following three parts of a successful community drill:

Step 1: Orientation

Prior to the first community drill meeting, send a quick orientation e-mail outlining goals of the community drill. Designate responsibilities and explain the mechanics of the exercise. On the day of the drill, reinforce what was previously outlined. Strive to keep the entire drill under four hours.

Step 2: Drill Scenario

Refer back to the main goal of the drill and select a scenario that is realistic and interesting from a prepared list of potential scenarios. Ask each participant to read his or her part, reacting as accurately, honestly and fully as possible. At the same time the drill director should keep detailed notes of responses and questions.

Step 3: Debriefing

Immediately after the drill scenario is completed, take a quick break before asking for feedback from participants. Pay special attention to repeated or reinforced comments.

Kinder Morgan and other pipeline operators regularly participate and often help plan community drills in the communities in which they operate. To read part one of the Planning & Coordinating a Community Drill series, download 2009 Issue 1 from the Responder archive.

Checklist for Key Technical Equipment and Resources

Natural gas pipeline incidents, though rare, require caution and immediate action. Ready your incident response team by making sure they have easy access to these key pieces of technical equipment and resources:

- **Pre-incident Response Plans.** A pipeline incident response plan is essential for a safe and efficient response. The plan should contain a general description of the pipelines and associated facilities within an agency's jurisdiction, copies of internal Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), a copy of the Material Safety Data Sheet for Natural Gas (available [here](#)) and other products transported by pipelines within the agency's jurisdiction, and a list of pipeline emergency contacts, including Kinder Morgan's.
- **2008 Department of Transportation Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG)** The ERG is collaboratively produced by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Transport Canada and the Secretariat of Communications and Transportation of Mexico. Responders can quickly identify the classification of pipeline incident materials and determine best strategies to protect themselves and the general public from ancillary dangers.
- **Combustible Gas Indicators (CGIs)** for Natural Gas As the name implies, this tool is used for detecting, measuring and pinpointing leaks of combustible gases and vapors. CGIs require regular maintenance and calibration. Pipeline operators typically bring CGIs to the scene of suspected pipeline incident. If your responding agency does not, make sure the operator's representative knows this when he or she arrives on scene.

(continued on reverse page)

The Responder's Role in Protecting Pipelines

Pipeline operators, like Kinder Morgan, monitor their lines 24-hours a day through the use of field data, air and foot patrol and control center surveillance.

In addition to a pipeline operator's daily efforts, local emergency responders can assist with pipeline protection. Notify Kinder Morgan, or the appropriate pipeline operator, if you observe the following:

Right-of-way encroachment or damage to facilities, which could endanger public safety.

The pipeline right-of-way is the land over and around the pipeline, typically 25 feet on each side of the line. Right-of-way agreements are negotiated individually with each landowner so widths and terms of agreement may vary. In addition, multiple pipelines in a common area can expand the size of the right-of-way. During pipeline construction and maintenance additional space may be temporarily included in the right-of-way.

Right-of-ways are typically identified by pipeline markers. Unauthorized building or planting in the right-of-way is known as encroachment. Encroachment endangers pipelines and can make it more difficult for pipeline operators to monitor line activity.

Landowners may obtain a copy of their easement agreement from the local county courthouse, which outlines the specific area included in the right-of-way as well as any prohibited activities.

In addition to the dangers of encroachment, local emergency responders can help spot dangerous excavation activity near pipelines. Excavation activity is the most common cause of serious pipeline damage. Each state has different laws regarding procedures for excavating near pipelines, but in all states, excavators should call 811 or their local One-Call center to have underground utilities marked prior to digging. This also applies to highway maintenance and other municipality-sponsored projects.

If you notice right-of-way encroachment contact http://www.kindermorgan.com/public_awareness/AdditionalInformation. If you are concerned about an excavation project near a pipeline in your jurisdiction, notify the pipeline operator or your state's One-Call center to verify that they are aware of the project.

Clues that indicate a pipeline leak or rupture.

Visual signs that a pipeline has leak or rupture include: brown or discolored vegetation among healthy plants, dirt being blown into the air, distinctive petroleum odors or the smell of rotten eggs, or a dense white cloud or fog. These signs may appear alone or in combination with one another. Additionally, listen for a loud roar or hissing sound.

For more information about signs of a leak and pipeline protection visit Kinder Morgan's public awareness web site at www.kindermorgan.com/public_awareness/Government/

Archived Issues

The Responder publication is a part of Kinder Morgan's Public Awareness program for emergency responders. Articles include pertinent information about training, grants, pipeline safety, high consequence area information, etc.

To read past issues of The Responder, visit the issue archive at www.kindermorgan.com/public_awareness/The_Responder/2009-02/archived_issues.cfm

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- **Instruments for Detecting Hydrogen Sulfide, Oxygen and Carbon Monoxide.** These tools gauge the amount of noxious chemicals that may cause otherwise unlikely hazards. (Note: this will only apply in situations when Hydrogen Sulfide is a threat.)
- **Thermal Imaging Equipment.** This tool is optional but helpful in the event of pipeline leak in an enclosed structure.
- **Communication Equipment.** Safe hand-held radios or satellite phones and a list of the area pipeline operators' emergency contact numbers will ease logistics and response time.

To verify Kinder Morgan's emergency contact number, link to U.S. Department of Transportation's ERG 2008 or for more information on readying your community for a pipeline incident, visit http://www.kindermorgan.com/public_awareness/Government.

Best Practices

The Responder recently surveyed its readers about best practices their department or agency employs to prepare to respond to a pipeline incident. Here are some of their responses:

"[The] County EMA & LEPC review all of the Pipeline Operational Plans yearly."

**Emergency Response Coordinator,
Douglas County Emergency
Management and LEPC**

"[Attending] requested meetings with local pipeline representatives."

**Assistant Chief, Lake in the Hills
Police Department**

"Attending and encouraging our local responder agency personnel to attend [the] annual regional safety training."

**Emergency Response Coordinator,
Rowan County Emergency Services**