



Planning for Wildfires and Coordinating Response with Incident Commanders

Wildfires continue to be a significant threat in many parts of the country, and the wildland urban interface growth due to development increases the risk. Given the linear nature of utilities, they are also at risk from wildfires. Preplanning between pipeline operators and emergency responders for wildfire response is essential.



Courtesy of SC Forestry Commission

One of the primary concerns during response to a wildfire is awareness of the location of below ground utilities such as natural gas and hazardous liquids pipelines. For preplanning and response purposes, the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) managed by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration provides a GIS database of all natural gas and hazardous liquids transmission pipelines, as well as underground natural gas storage and large capacity hazardous liquids tanks, which are located throughout the country. Emergency responders can register with the NPMS and receive location data of these pipelines in their jurisdictions. The NPMS can be accessed at <https://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov/>. It is important to note that the location of natural gas distribution and gathering lines are not contained in the NPMS. Local distribution companies are the best source of information regarding the specifics of their operations and facilities.

Best Practices

“We meet with our surrounding counties at least once every other month (the hazmat teams) and we hold an annual joint training session/ exercise.”

“Our agency does have tabletop drills and LEPC meetings to communicate response needs and resources in three counties.”

“Engaging county and city emergency management officials is critical for successfully multiagency coordination and communication.”

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Another beneficial wildfire planning and response tool is provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is called WildfireSAFE. This internet site is intended to assist emergency responders and others with wildfire mitigation responsibilities with real-time data to assess potential wildfire conditions, and track areas where wildfires are actually occurring. This system integrates with federal incident management systems while providing enhanced situational awareness during wildfire incidents. Access and registration for the system can be found at <https://wildfiresafe.fs.usda.gov/>.

In addition to the previous resources, emergency responders and utilities can benefit from direct communication and coordination related to wildfire planning. The vast majority of the pipeline networks operating in the country are located below ground. While risk from wildfire to below ground assets may seem low, there are important factors to consider. When calling for state forestry units to plow fire breaks, it is critically important to be aware of the location of pipeline rights-of-way. Pipeline depths can vary due to a variety of circumstances so contacting the operator is imperative when planning fire break plowing activities.

Above ground facilities such as tank farms, valve sets, regulator stations, delivery points and compressor/pumping stations are located at various points along the pipeline system. These facilities can create a significant risk if exposed to a wildfire. Again, preplanning with your pipeline operations representative can aid in identifying and protecting these critical assets.

Wildfires will continue to occur. The key to ensuring safety of underground pipeline facilities transporting energy products is effective communication between pipeline operators and emergency responders during preplanning efforts.

Scene Size Up for A Hazardous Liquids Incident

One of the most important skills firefighters are taught is how to conduct effective scene size-ups. Size-ups are all about risk identification, mitigation, and safety. Effective size-ups include planning for underground pipelines, which helps minimize negative consequences. While scene size-ups at structure fires might seem fairly straightforward, how would you conduct one at a hazardous liquid incident? What key safety concerns would you look for? While not all hazardous liquid incidents are there same, there are some common issues to assess.

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BUXUS

For more information on BUXUS or to register, go to www.buxus.io

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To request additional information, or to schedule a presentation or tabletop drill with Kinder Morgan, please fill out the form found [here](#).

Suggest an Article for The Responder!

Is there a topic you'd like to see featured in the next issue?! Please click [here](#) to suggest your topic for *The Responder* newsletter!

WISER has been discontinued

WISER has been discontinued as part of NLM's initiative to align and consolidate information. Other sources of hazmat, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons can be found at **CHEMM**, **ERG 2020**, **DHS' Hazardous Materials Release website**, **NIOSH pocket guide**.

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Product & Operator Identification

Determining the product being transported in a pipeline is made easy through federally mandated signage and markers. Each pipeline is required to have signs that identify the product, name of the operator, and an emergency telephone number that is answered 24/7. Of



course, hazardous liquids incidents involving over the road transportation call for use of the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) which will identify products via the placard on the container. Of interest, the ERG also contains basic pipeline identification and emergency response information. Be it a pipeline, or over the road transportation incident, the best source of information is always the operator. Once the operator is identified, they should be immediately contacted and requested to respond to the incident site. Once the product has been identified, the appropriate safety data sheet (SDS) should be consulted to determine hazard response recommendations, and what personal protective equipment (PPE) is required.

Hazards Identification

When conducting a scene size-up at hazardous liquids incident, the following issues should be assessed:

- What is the wind direction and is it influencing product migration?
- Is the spilled product on fire?
- Does your sense of smell or leak detection equipment detect the presence of hydro carbons, such as gasoline, diesel, etc.?
- Is it in liquid or vapor form, or both?
- Are there bubbles coming up or a visible sheen in water bodies?
- Are there any signs of dead vegetation in the vicinity of the suspected leak?
- Do you observe any ice balls forming on exposed pipe? This can occur when hazardous liquids such as propane vaporize and are released to the atmosphere.
- Have potential ignition sources been identified? (This should include apparatus placement, vehicle traffic, electrical power above and below ground, cell phones, among others)

First Responder Training Video Series

Learn how to safely and effectively respond to a pipeline emergency, how pipelines work, how different products impact response, response leading practices, how to better prepare to respond to pipeline incidents and roles in pipeline response. Videos feature interviews with pipeline and emergency response experts, covering a wide variety of emergency response disciplines. Videos available at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLQv4arPbGluPt7j_JuETWw



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- Is the product migrating into storm drains, sewers, or bodies of water?
- What are the life safety hazards and are evacuations warranted?

Remember that scene size-up is not just a snapshot in time. It is an ongoing process to continually evaluate the incident for any changes that may affect safety. Size-up information should be relayed to other responders as the incident evolves.

Emergency Response and Preplanning Tools: BUXUS

Pipeline operators and emergency responders know that the first 30-60 minutes of any emergency event are crucial to mitigating impacts. Preparation prior to an incident critical in safely and effectively responding to pipeline emergencies. BUXUS is a free app designed to improve communication between pipeline operators and emergency responders and other stakeholder types to assist with preplanning and emergency response efforts, as well as communication.

BUXUS is available 24/7, with no internet or cell phone access, and is absolutely free! This program is designed to facilitate emergency response to high impact, low frequency pipeline incidents through a supplemental app that can be downloaded to cell phones and iPads to instantly access pipeline information. The app is paid for by pipeline operators, and once downloaded it grants emergency responders access to the following: information on the commodity being transported (for those operators that subscribe to BUXUS), emergency contact information for operators, hazards posed by the commodity, emergency response actions to be taken or to be avoided, interactive maps, and access to a portal to request additional information.

BUXUS does not require Wi-Fi or cell phone coverage to work once downloaded. Perhaps one of the most critical features is its ability to provide emergency response guidance and direct communication with operators (who subscribe to the system) to set up mock drills, trainings or communicate during an incident. To download the free app, go to Google Play or Apple's app store. For more information go to www.buxus.io

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NPMS and PIMMA Updates

The Operator Submission And Validation Environment (**OSAVE**) has added specific workflows to facilitate the annual NPMS LNG plant data submissions. OSAVE is a one-stop shop for operators to view existing LNG plant data in a map viewer; review and update LNG plant-related contact information; and fulfill the yearly LNG plant submission requirement by submitting a notification of no changes or removal to NPMS staff, or by uploading a data submission.

Did you know ...

811 is the nationally recognized three digit number to provide notification of pending excavation activity so that utilities can properly locate underground assets. Help us spread the word for safety ...**Call 811 before you dig!**

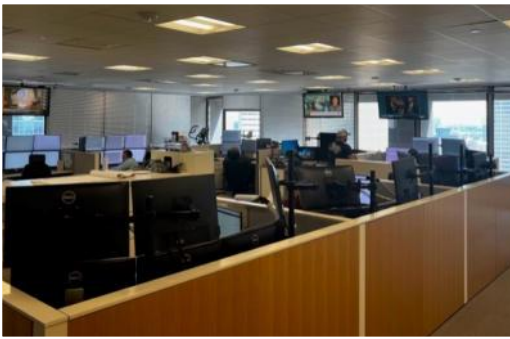


**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

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What Is a Control Center and How Does it Keep Pipelines Safe?

Monitoring interstate pipelines requires sophisticated technology within a control center and trained controllers to look for system disruptions, pressure changes, or flow rate variations. A control center is often considered the “nerve center” of the pipeline system. These facilities are staffed 24/7 and utilize technology called supervisory control and data acquisition systems, or SCADA.



SCADA systems allow pipeline operators to remotely monitor pressures and flow rates of the natural gas, hazardous liquids, or highly volatile liquids flowing through the pipeline in real time from a location that may be very far away from a given pipeline segment. SCADA systems allow for certain operational thresholds to

be established and if an anomaly is noted, an alarm signals a controller who can quickly assess the situation.

Federal pipeline safety regulations for control room management require control center controllers to undergo extensive training and qualification. These controllers receive frequent, on-going training that can include participation in mock emergency exercises, requiring them to simulate SCADA response to various scenarios. These controllers are responsible for monitoring the operations of the entire pipeline system, facilities and plants on a SCADA system 24/7. In the event of a pressure drop, compressor failure, or other abnormality, SCADA systems and the controllers are the first individuals who are typically aware. Control centers are a vital component to ensuring safe and quick incident mitigation.

Pipelines are a vital part of our country's energy infrastructure, and as such they could be a potential target for bad actors. Since SCADA systems serve a very critical role, it is incredibly important that they be protected from cyber-security threats. SCADA systems typically operate on heavily protected computer networks that are isolated from other more widely used networks in order to mitigate the risk of a cyber-attack. For more information on Kinder Morgan's control centers, please email publicawarenesscoord@kindermorgan.com ■

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