

Log P-30 N.T. 1537 P-75-5 and 6

**NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

ISSUED: May 8, 1975

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Forwarded to:

Honorable William T. Coleman, Jr.  
Secretary of Transportation  
Washington, D. C. 20590

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)

P-75-5 and 6

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On January 17, 1975, a crude oil fire erupted in the terminal facilities of the Mid Valley Pipeline Company in Lima, Ohio. As a result of the facts discovered in its investigation of the accident, the Safety Board believes that corrective action is needed.

On January 17, Mid Valley's 1,040-mile-long pipeline had been delivering crude oil from Longview, Texas, to Lima, Ohio, at 10,800 barrels per hour (453,600 gallons).

At 2:35 p.m., the Mid Valley deliveryman detected a pressure buildup at the Lima terminal, and he tried to divert the crude stream into tankage at an adjacent terminal. He notified the dispatcher at Longview to shut down the pipeline. At 2:47 p.m., three pump stations were shut down; the crude stream was diverted from Lima, but the pressure was not relieved at the terminal.

A break in the terminal metering facilities at 522 psi pressure caused crude oil to spray over the metering facilities; the pressure relief system had not prevented the line from rupturing. A fire followed which rapidly engulfed the terminal, blazed several hundred feet into the air, and melted high-voltage overhead power lines. The power lines arced, burned, and short-circuited when they fell inside the terminal compound. As a result of this accident, the deliveryman was killed, power lines were downed, and the terminal was destroyed.

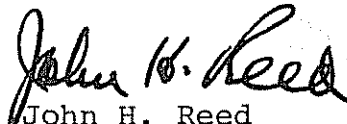
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PAR-76-3

In view of the foregoing, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the Office of Pipeline Safety of the Department of Transportation:

- (a) Require the Mid Valley Pipeline Company to review all their pump station and terminal facilities to determine whether conditions exist, similar to those at Lima, which could cause additional accidents on their system. (Class I - Urgent Followup)
- (b) Urge the Mid Valley Pipeline Company to utilize a total systems approach to pipeline safety in the redesign and reconstruction of the destroyed facility at Lima so that single failures and frequent combinations of failures do not escalate to leaks or over pressures. (Class I - Urgent Followup)

REED, Chairman, McADAMS, THAYER, BURGESS, and HALEY, Members, concurred in the above recommendations.

By:   
John H. Reed  
Chairman

cc: Mid Valley Pipeline Company



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