

# TRAINING GUIDE FOR OPERATORS OF SMALL LP GAS SYSTEMS



Prepared for  
United States Department of Transportation,  
Research and Special Programs Administration,  
Office of Pipeline Safety  
by the  
National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners  
Staff Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety

## **TO THE READER**

The U.S. Office of Pipeline Safety promotes the safe transportation by pipeline of natural gas, LP gas, liquefied natural gas and hazardous liquids. This guidance manual for operators of small LP gas systems is part of our commitment to pipeline safety. This manual was developed to provide a broad overview of pipeline compliance responsibilities under federal pipeline safety regulations. It has been designed for the non-technically trained person who operates a master meter system, a small municipal system or a small independent system.

The federal government recognizes that most operators of small LP gas systems have not had extensive training in operation and maintenance of a gas system. In addition, many of the safety regulations are in technical language that addresses generic requirements for both large and small LP gas systems. Therefore, this manual attempts to simplify the technical language of the regulations.

For certain critical regulations, this manual provides specific details of methods of operation and selection of materials that will satisfy the pipeline safety regulations. However, this is often only one of several allowable options. To assure compliance in many areas of the pipeline safety regulations, this manual provides a set of examples that the operator of small systems can use to meet the minimum requirements of the pipeline safety regulations.

This training guide relies on sources representing the best opinion on the subject at the time of publication. However, it should not be assumed that all acceptable safety measures and procedures are mentioned in this manual. The LP operator is referred to 49 CFR Part 192 and NFPA 58 for additional details and other options for reaching and maintaining compliance.

Our aim is to provide basic information to LP operators of small gas distribution and master meter systems to ensure compliance with the Federal gas pipeline safety regulations.

It is hoped that this document will assist you in achieving and maintaining a safe and efficient LP system. The result will be to enhance public safety - the essential goal for the Office of Pipeline Safety.

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This guidance manual was implemented under the sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The manual relies on sources representing the best opinion on the subject at the time of publication. However, it should not be assumed that all acceptable safety measures and procedures are mentioned in this manual. The reader is referred to the Code of Federal Regulations (49 CFR Parts 190-199, Part 40 and also NFPA 58 and 59) for the complete pipeline safety requirements.



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