

log P-18

Net 1067 Rec P 73-1

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ISSUED: April 19, 1973

Adopted by the NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
at its office in Washington, D. C.
on the 4th day of April 1973

FORWARDED TO:)
Mr. Joseph C. Caldwell)
Director, Office of Pipeline Safety)
Department of Transportation)
Washington, D.C. 20590)

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION P-73-1

During the National Transportation Safety Board's preliminary investigation of a gas pipeline accident at the intersection of Sycamore and Main Streets in Adamsville, Alabama, on February 7, 1973, the possibility of a broader hazard became apparent.

In this accident, an explosion which killed three persons and injured two others, occurred in a store and attached apartment. A 2-inch cast iron main near the building, which had been operated at 17 p.s.i.g., was found to be cracked circumferentially. The distribution system is operated by the Graysville Municipal Gas System, and the cast iron piping was reportedly installed in 1949-1950.

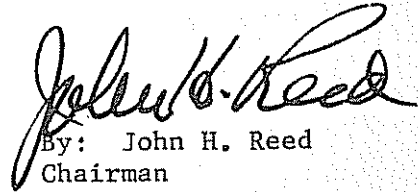
Similar accidents of this type also occurred in Adamsville on November 12, 1972, and on February 15, 1973. On November 12, an explosion and fire, which killed one person, injured two others, and destroyed the building, occurred in front of a church at 4929 Main Street. A 4-inch cast iron gas main was found to be cracked. The February 15 accident also involved a cracked 2-inch cast iron gas main in front of a church near the intersection of Adams Avenue and Mountain Street. This break was repaired without mishap.

Based on the foregoing facts the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the Office of Pipeline Safety:

Take the necessary steps to determine whether there is a continuing hazard in the gas distribution system in Adamsville, within the meaning of Section 3(b) of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, which states in part, ". . . Whenever the Secretary shall find a particular facility to be hazardous to life or property, he shall be empowered to require the person operating such facility to take such steps necessary to remove such hazards."

This recommendation will be released to the public on the issue date shown above. No public dissemination of the contents of this document should be made public prior to that date.

Reed, Chairman, Thayer, Burgess, and Haley, Members, concurred in the above recommendation. McAdams, Member, dissenting.



By: John H. Reed
Chairman