

LOG P-44 Not 1534A P-76-16

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

FOR RELEASE: 6:30 A.M., E.D.T., JUNE 22, 1976

(202) 426-8787

ISSUED: June 22, 1976

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Forwarded to:

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

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)

P-76-16

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About 3:00 p.m. on January 17, 1975, a pipe ruptured at the Mid-Valley Pipeline Company's Lima, Ohio, crude oil terminal. A motor-operated valve within the terminal had been closed inadvertently and pressure had built up. When the pressure exceeded the 720-psig working pressure rating of a substandard flange, a 14-inch long crack developed. Crude oil was sprayed from the crack, atomized, ignited, and burned; flames resulted which were more than 100 feet high.

Attempts to extinguish the fire and to shut off valves to the terminal were hampered when overhead high-tension power lines burned, arced, and fell into the pipeline terminal yard. The fire destroyed the terminal buildings and killed the terminal deliveryman.

The fire at the Mid-Valley Lima terminal started about 3 p.m. By 3:30 p.m., personnel from the adjoining pipeline facility had gained access to the Mid-Valley terminal yard and had started to close the inlet valves to the station. However, before they could complete this task, flames from the fire reached the 130-kilovolt power lines that were located directly above the shutoff valves, and all emergency personnel had to retreat from the terminal yard. By the time that three power lines had fallen and the current had been shut off, several hours had elapsed. The valves beneath the power lines were not closed until 6:45 p.m. and the fire was not extinguished until 7:30 p.m.

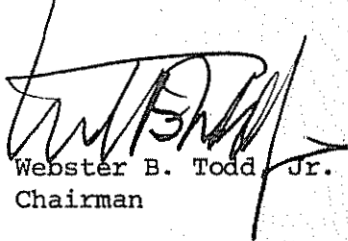
1534-A

PAR-76-3

Therefore, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the Office of Pipeline Safety Operations of the Department of Transportation:

Study and incorporate in 49 CFR 192 and 195 the effects of overhead power lines on the safety of gas and liquid pipelines. The minimum safe distances of overhead power lines from compressors, pumps, and terminals should be established where necessary. The locations of power lines in relation to emergency shutoff valves and gas blowdown facilities also should be studied and minimum safe distances should be established where necessary. (P-76-16) (Class III, Longer-Term Followup)

TODD, Chairman, McADAMS, BURGESS, HALEY, and HOGUE, Members, concurred in the above recommendation.

  
By: Webster B. Todd Jr.  
Chairman

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