

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FOR RELEASE: 6:30 P.M., E.S.T., JANUARY 31, 1977  
(202) 426-8787

ISSUED: January 31, 1977

-----  
Forwarded to:  
Mr. Walter E. Rogers  
President  
Interstate Natural Gas  
Association of America  
1660 L Street NW.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Mr. G. H. Lawrence  
President  
American Gas Association  
1515 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Mr. Frank N. Ikard  
President  
American Petroleum Institute  
2101 L Street NW.  
Washington, D.C. 20037  
-----

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)

P-76-94

At 10:32 a.m., P.d.t., on June 16, 1976, a piece of construction equipment excavating for a street widening project on Venice Boulevard in Los Angeles, California, struck and punctured an 8-inch petroleum products pipeline owned by the Standard Oil Company of California. The escaping gasoline sprayed on nearby buildings and ignited 90 seconds later. As a result of this accident 9 persons were killed, 14 persons were injured, 7 buildings were destroyed, other buildings were damaged by fire and heat, and 15 vehicles were destroyed. The intense fire melted powerlines and telephone lines. 1/

1/ For more detailed information on this accident, read "Standard Oil Company of California, 8-Inch Pipeline Rupture, Venice Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, June 16, 1976." NTSB-PAR-76-8.

P-76-94

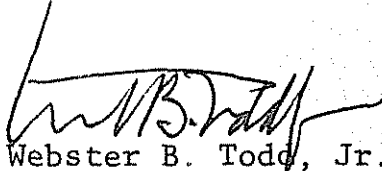
The California Department of Transportation, designers and originators of the construction project; the Griffith Company, the prime contractor for the project; C. W. Poss, Inc., the sub-contractor; and the Standard Oil Company of California were all aware of the existence of the 8-inch pipeline. However, the precise depth of the pipeline within the accident area was not known, although preconstruction meetings had been held, testholes to determine the pipeline depth had been dug at other locations, and the pipeline in another area had been lowered because of its insufficient depth.

No "one-call" notification system was in effect in the Los Angeles area at the time of the accident which would have enabled the contractor to request and receive specific information concerning the depth and location of buried utilities.

Therefore, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, the American Gas Association and the American Petroleum Institute:

Advise member companies whose facilities are exposed to excavation construction projects to take immediate action to mark and locate their facilities accurately.  
(Class II, Priority Followup)(P-76-94)

TODD, Chairman, BAILEY, Vice Chairman, HOGUE and HALEY, Members, concurred in the above recommendation. McADAMS, Member, did not participate.

  
By: Webster B. Todd, Jr.  
Chairman

THIS RECOMMENDATION WILL BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON THE ISSUE DATE SHOWN ABOVE. NO PUBLIC DISSEMINATION OF THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE MADE PRIOR TO THAT DATE.