



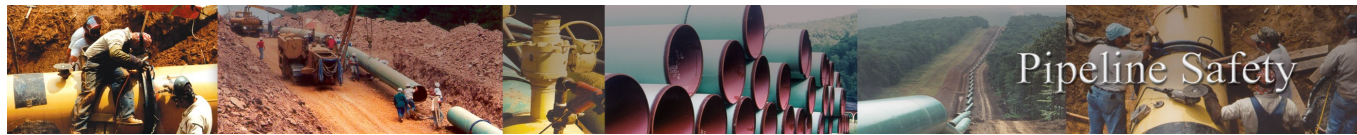
U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration

Office of Pipeline Safety

Ensuring a safe, reliable, and
environmentally sound pipeline
transportation system



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Who We Are

The Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) is part of the US Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). Our programs are driven by our mission to ensure the safe, reliable, and environmentally sound operation of our nation's pipeline transportation system. We inspect and enforce pipeline safety regulations through qualified inspectors located in five regional offices. Our communication programs aim to educate various stakeholders about pipelines and enable them to share responsibility for continuously improving pipeline safety.

Pipeline Safety Stakeholders

We recognize that our mission cannot be accomplished in isolation. We are committed to working with all stakeholders to improve pipeline safety:

- Public and Community Organizations
- Excavators and Property Developers
- Emergency Responders
- Local, state, and federal Government Agencies
- Pipeline and Other Underground Facility Operators
- Industry Trade Associations
- Consensus Standards Organizations
- Environmental Organizations

Stakeholder collaboration has been vital during the development of the OPS programs described in this brochure.

Pipeline Safety Regulations

OPS establishes safety regulations for gas and hazardous liquid pipeline systems, as well as liquefied natural gas facilities. These regulations are contained in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 190-199. They include requirements for: pipeline design, construction, operation and maintenance; personnel qualification; public awareness; emergency response; and other aspects of pipeline safety. OPS regulations include minimum safety requirements for all pipelines and more rigorous requirements for pipelines that pose a greater risk to populated and environmentally sensitive areas.

State Pipeline Safety Partners

Supported by funding agreements with OPS, state agencies can assume safety jurisdiction for intrastate gas and hazardous liquid pipeline operators. To assume jurisdiction, states must publish regulations that meet or exceed the federal safety regulations. Our state pipeline safety partners have formed the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR), which strives to strengthen state pipeline safety programs through promotion of improved pipeline safety standards, education, training, and technology. OPS frequently consults with NAPSR, especially for issues concerning intrastate pipelines. <http://www.napsr.org/>

Consensus Standards

OPS works closely with several national consensus standards organizations, such as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and the National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE). These organizations include members from various stakeholder groups and produce effective standards balanced through a consensus process. OPS recognizes the value of stakeholder consensus and appreciates the hard work required to develop and publish consensus technical safety standards. When these standards complement or enhance OPS regulations, they may be incorporated into the regulations.

Research and Development (R&D)

OPS technical review committees identify R&D priorities and select projects for funding. Our R&D program goal is to drive improvements in various aspects of pipeline safety. It focuses on the rapid conversion of new technology into tools pipeline stakeholders can use to improve pipeline safety. Completed R&D projects often provide the technical basis for regulations and consensus safety standards. Other R&D projects summarize information necessary for well-informed decisions by pipeline safety stakeholders. <http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/rd>

Integrity Management

OPS regulations require gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipeline operators to conduct risk assessments of their pipeline systems. Generally, areas where pipeline incidents would impact large populations or environmentally sensitive areas or contaminate drinking water supplies are classified as high consequence areas. Operators must conduct periodic integrity assessments of their pipelines within these areas. Various assessment methods can be used. Identified pipeline defects must be repaired within a timeframe commensurate with their severity. Data resulting from integrity assessments can be used to improve standards for the collection and interpretation of such data. <http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/iim>

Public Awareness Programs

Pipeline operators are required to implement public awareness programs in communities traversed by pipelines. They must inform stakeholders on how to recognize pipeline failures and of what actions to take in such an event. Stakeholders include the public, excavators, emergency responders, and local officials. The regulations address all aspects of public awareness communications. Operators must evaluate the effectiveness of their programs to identify needed improvements.

<http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/PublicEducation.htm>

Damage Prevention

External force damage to pipelines during excavation work near those pipelines continues to be a leading cause of pipeline incidents. OPS invests considerable resources in identifying damage prevention best practices and in raising stakeholder awareness regarding damage prevention. Our Stakeholder Communications website provides additional information on these and other recent OPS damage prevention initiatives.

<http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/DamagePrevention.htm>

- *Common Ground Alliance* – The CGA is a nonprofit organization that promotes damage prevention across all stakeholder groups. Its members represent all underground facility damage prevention stakeholders. OPS supported the formation of the CGA and continues to support its efforts. www.commongroundalliance.com
- *Damage Prevention Best Practices* – In 1999, OPS sponsored the Common Ground Study to identify “best practices” to prevent damage to pipelines and other underground facilities. The CGA now provides stewardship to ensure the Best Practices are maintained and updated. The CGA Best Practices are recognized nationally and internationally.
- *VA Pilot Project* – OPS sponsored and supports the Virginia Pilot Project for Incorporating GPS Technology to Enhance One-Call Damage Prevention.
- *PIPA* – The Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA) aims to improve communication between pipeline operators and property owners/developers regarding land use planning practices.

- *DPAP* – PHMSA’s Damage Prevention Assistance Program (DPAP) recognizes that state damage prevention programs can be improved by incorporating the nine elements identified in the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement and Safety (PIPES) Act of 2006 and by identifying and implementing positive changes in processes, procedures, technologies and damage prevention laws.
- *TAG* – Informed communities play a vital role in the safety and reliability of pipeline operations. PHMSA’s Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) program offers new opportunities to strengthen the depth and quality of public participation in pipeline safety matters.

National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS)

The NPMS is a geographic information system (GIS) that contains the locations and attributes of hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines, liquefied natural gas facilities, and breakout tanks. Federal, state, and local government agencies can request password-protected access to interactive online maps showing pipeline facilities and the areas they traverse. This information can be a valuable tool for planning community growth, emergency response, and homeland defense applications. Members of the public can query the NPMS to obtain contact information for pipeline companies operating in a county or postal code.

<http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov>

Training and Qualifications

PHMSA’s Pipeline Safety Office of Training and Qualifications (TQ) offers a wide variety of training activities designed to familiarize government and industry personnel with the requirements of pipeline safety regulations and to educate federal and state pipeline safety inspectors in the application of compliance requirements, inspection techniques, and enforcement procedures.

<http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/tq>

Stakeholder Communications Website

OPS’s Stakeholder Communications website is tailored to various pipeline safety stakeholders. It provides information about all aspects of pipeline system construction, operation, and maintenance. It provides current statistical reports on pipeline incidents and enforcement activity. It also provides pipeline related information for each state, including pipeline incident and mileage data.

<http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm>

Community Assistance & Technical Services (CATS)

To improve communication with a variety of pipeline safety stakeholders, OPS Community Assistance and Technical Services (CATS) managers are located in each OPS region. They work with state pipeline safety partners and other stakeholders to identify opportunities for improving pipeline safety, especially in the area of damage prevention. CATS managers are available to provide additional information about OPS programs.

<http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/CATS.htm>

How to Contact the Office of Pipeline Safety

Eastern Region Office

802 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 306

West Trenton, NJ 08628

Telephone: (609) 989-2170 Fax: (609) 989-2277

States Covered: CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT, VA, DC, WV

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Southern Region Office

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<http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline>