

PIPELINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE FIELD GUIDE

Protect Life. / Secure the Scene. / Eliminate Ignition.



Pipeline Association
for Public Awareness

REMEMBER PIPELINE OPERATORS CONTROL THE PRODUCT AND SHUT DOWN.
RESPONDERS CONTROL THE SCENE AND PROTECT THE PEOPLE.



DO



BE EQUIPPED

Wear appropriate PPE to include bunker gear, SCBA and deploy atmospheric meters.



REFERENCE THE DOT EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK

Consult the ERG before deploying tactics: pages 22–27 for pipeline ID and contacts, Guide 115 for flammable gases, Guide 128 for flammable liquids.



APPROACH CAUTIOUSLY

Stay clear of vapors, fumes, smoke and spills. Approach from upwind, uphill or upstream.



SECURE THE SCENE

Establish isolation zones and control access. Keep the public and responders out.



IDENTIFY THE HAZARDS

Use pipeline markers for product, operator and 24-hour emergency phone number.



CALL THE PIPELINE OPERATOR

Immediately report the incident and coordinate response.



ELIMINATE IGNITION SOURCES

Shut down vehicles, equipment and electronics. Avoid flames, sparks and smoking.



PROTECT PEOPLE

Evacuate or shelter in place based on risk to people.



LET FIRES BURN

Unless life is at risk and the fuel supply can be safely isolated.



USE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS)

Establish unified command and work together with all responding agencies.



CONTINUOUSLY ASSESS CONDITIONS

Monitor weather, terrain, threats, and gas migration into adjacent confined spaces. Reevaluate actions and adapt as conditions change.



DO NOT



ENTER VAPOR CLOUDS OR LIQUID SPILLS

Do not go into areas where you cannot see or where vapors may be present. Vapors can/will be present regardless of a visible cloud.



ASSUME A PRODUCT IS SAFE

Do not assume that gases or vapors are harmless because of lack of odor.



PARK NEAR THE RELEASE

Do not park over manholes, storm drains or near the release area.



OPERATE PIPELINE VALVES OR EQUIPMENT

Do not operate any pipeline valves or equipment—except customer meter or service valves, if trained, properly equipped and coordinating with the pipeline operator.



USE RADIOS, PHONES OR ELECTRONICS NEAR RELEASE

Do not use devices that could create a spark if ignition risk exists.



EXTINGUISH GAS FIRES BEFORE SHUTDOWN

Do not extinguish a natural gas fire unless directed by the operator.



ATTEMPT TO STOP THE LEAK

Do not attempt to stop, patch or control the leak yourself.



VENTILATE CONFINED SPACES WITHOUT GUIDANCE

Do not approach a confined space unless trained in hazardous materials or under guidance of trained hazardous materials personnel.



TAKE ACTION THAT INCREASES RISK

Do not take actions that put responders or the public in greater danger.



CONTACT THE PIPELINE OPERATOR

Use the pipeline marker to locate the operator's 24-hour emergency number and report the incident.



Scan QR code for the full Pipeline Emergency Response Guidelines or visit pipelineawareness.org