



# Identification of High Consequence Areas

**Pennsylvania State Pipeline Safety Meeting**  
**A sustainable partnership between emergency responders  
and the pipeline industry**

# Identification of High Consequence Areas: Presentation Overview

- Project Goals
- Model Program
- Lessons Learned
- Conclusion
- Questions

# Identification of High Consequence Areas: Project Goals

- Develop methodology to help pipeline operators and emergency responders jointly identify HCA's
  - Important for all to recognize that HCA's will change over time, so program is long-term
  - Does not replace industry's responsibilities under Federal law
- Build public confidence in the integrity of pipeline safety initiatives

# Pipeline Safety Improvement Act

- Previous history – Bellingham, Carlsbad
- Led to the passage of the 2002 Pipeline Safety Improvement Act
- Calls for increased standards for pipeline safety

# High Consequence Areas

- Pipeline operators are required to identify areas along natural gas transmission lines where people congregate
- Once HCAs are identified, operators must develop and implement an integrity management plan for those pipeline segments

# What is a High Consequence Area?

- An area along a natural gas transmission pipeline right of way that would be especially vulnerable in the event of an incident
- Definition is complicated, but generally based on population density

# What is a High Consequence Area?

- Some HCAs are easy to identify - operators are already aware of high population density areas along rights of way
- Other areas are more difficult to identify - these areas are referred to as “Identified Sites”

# What is an “Identified Site?”

- *An outdoor area or open structure that is:*
  - *Occupied by 20 or more people on at least 50 days in any 12 month period*
  - *A building that is occupied by 20 or more people on at least 5 days a week or 10 weeks in any 12 month period*
  - *A facility occupied by people who are confined, are of impaired mobility or would be difficult to evacuate*

# What is a High Consequence Area?

- Of specific concern are rural areas that are:
  - Outdoor areas where people regularly congregate such as ball fields, amphitheaters, beaches or campgrounds
  - Buildings that would be difficult to evacuate such as hospitals, prisons and nursing homes

# Fire Department Responsibilities

- No requirement for fire service to participate, but by cooperating with pipeline operators, fire service can support a nationwide effort to make pipeline infrastructure safer

# Identification of High Consequence Areas: Model

## County Program:

- Fire Service leadership brings together emergency responders and pipeline industry
- Meet regularly to discuss HCAs and other pipeline/energy infrastructure safety issues.
- Group teaches each other
  - Compressor station, drilling site visits
  - Joint pipeline training programs, understanding mutual aid agreements

# Identification of High Consequence Areas: Model

## County Program:

Primary job is to identify HCA's in the county:

- Compare county maps with known pipeline infrastructure
- Compare county development plans with existing and planned pipelines
- Identification of training needs and if Emergency Response Plans need changing
- It's Communications 101 – building a real partnership

# Identification of High Consequence Areas: Model

## HCA Data:

- It is important make certain that HCA data is saved (electronically or in writing) & available for review by Federal authorities

# Identification of High Consequence Areas:

## Lessons Learned

### Mistakes:

- ‘No shows’ and short-notice cancellations of meetings
- Lack of outreach in between formal meetings
  - In between times must be used to exchange ideas, visit sites, reach out to others in community

# Identification of High Consequence Areas

NASFM program can assist local emergency responders and pipeline operators

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