



Identification of High Consequence Areas

Washington 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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