



Pipeline Safety Accidents & Incidents

Larry Snelson
Jennifer De La Cruz
July 2025



Topics



- Pipeline Safety's actions after a reportable incident or accident.
- Compliance / Procedure verification.

What incidents to we investigate?



- All reportable incidents
- Reporting-regulated only
- Verification
 - Courtesy calls
 - Retracted incidents
 - Interstate

Inspector's Responsibility



- Review operator's actions, procedures, and records to determine compliance with code and adherence to operator's procedures
- Includes Emergency Response Plan

Stakeholders



- Operator
- Accident Coordinator
- Inspector
- State Accident Lead
- PHMSA Program Director
- Executive Leadership (O&S, Exec Director, Commissioners, Communications, Media relations)
- PHMSA, NTSB, Others

Commission Actions (1 of 3)



- Receives call / contacts on-site personnel
- Gathers information from operator / site
- Determines Go / No-Go
- Schedule 30-Day review meeting / procedures /
Records / operator's accident investigation
- Work on Incident Checklist
- Follow up meetings

Commission Actions (2 of 3)



- More follow up meetings
- Submit Inspection Package (IP)-send executive closing
- Reviewed by State Accident Lead
- IP sent back to Inspector
- Follow up meeting(s)
- IP resubmitted-Executive Closing Sent
- State Accident Lead reviews, submits

Commission Actions (3 of 3)



- PHMSA Program Director Reviews IP
- Sends back to Inspector
- Follow up meeting(s)
- Inspector submits IP-Executive Closing sent
- Oversight and Safety Director review

Retractions



- Information needed
- Operator Name and OPID
- NRC Report Number (if applicable)
- Date / Location of Incident
- Justification of Retraction
- Letter of Retraction on Letterhead in PDF

Retraction for Distribution



Information needed, but not limited to:

- Pressure Test
- Bar-Hole / Leak Survey Test
 - with line locate accuracy
- Chromatograph

Questions?



Larry Snelson

larry.Snelson@rrc.texas.gov

(512) 963-9872

Learning Objectives



- Refresh the basics
- Address common issues
- Review internal requirements

Basics



- Incidents and accidents
- Confirmed discovery
- Local time and date

Notifications



- National Response Center (NRC)
- Railroad Commission
- Reporting-regulated only

Prevention of Recurrence



- Address more than just the specific location
- Multiple incidents on the same line

Recent Trends



- Excessive Vibration
- Internal Corrosion

Internal Requirements



- New Construction on replacements/repairs
- Distribution incidents – determining if the operator's facilities were involved

Contact Info



- Jennifer De La Cruz
- jennifer.delacruz@rrc.texas.gov
- 512-599-3567