



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



PHMSA Office of Pipeline Safety Southern Region

PHMSA CATS Perspective

NAPSR Southern Region Meeting

April 22-26, 2013

Arthur O. Buff, P.E.
CATS Program Manager
PHMSA, Southern Region



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Presentation Overview

- ✓ Georgia Emergency Response Group
- ✓ Pipeline Incidents
- ✓ Draft Final Rule – Part 196 – Excavation Activity

Draft Final Rule – Part 196 – Excavation Activity



Georgia Emergency Response Group

What is it?

- **Group of pipeline operators, emergency responders and government officials concerned about pipeline emergencies in Georgia**



Georgia Emergency Response Group

Why was it formed?

2007 – 2008: AGL approached PHMSA, firefighters squeezing lines

March 2008: GAPSC Final Rule Countywide gas safety plans to reduce confusion – overlap/duplication

July 2010: Meeting GAPSC, GA Assoc. Fire Chiefs rep. concern no firefighter involvement on issues affecting them

September 2010: San Bruno (Chief – “What Pipeline?”)





Georgia Emergency Response Group

**May 15, 2012: Formal creation of Group
at first annual meeting**



**Steering Committee
formed**





Steering Committee

- **Pipeline Operators**
 - HVL
 - Natural gas
 - Hazardous liquid
- **Fire Chiefs/Inspectors**
- **Municipal Gas Department**
- **State Fire Marshall's Office**
- **Georgia PSC/FPU**
- **Georgia Public Safety Training Center**
- **PHMSA/OPS**





Mission Statement

Advance the ability of Georgia's emergency responders to manage pipeline emergencies through improved training, cooperation and communication with pipeline operators





Accomplishments

- **Completed first Pipeline Emergencies training at GPSTC (3/16)**
- **Prepared outline for model program**
(assumptions, baseline, benefits, evaluation, maintenance, final product)
- **Participated at Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs conference in Savannah**





Work In Progress

- **Preparing “business plan” (costs to implement & sustain program)**
- **Looking into costs and funding to train all 630 F.D.’s in GA (3-year)**
- **Looking into sustainability costs (maintain program)**
- **Georgia program - model for other states**





GA Association of Fire Chiefs Conference, Savannah April 14-17, 2013

- PHMSA and Pipeline Operators had booths
- Tim Butters, Deputy Administrator talked about pipeline safety
- Pipeline operators (gas, HVL, haz. liq., muni.) talked about their pipelines



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Tim Butters Addressing Georgia Fire Chiefs



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PHMSA's Booth



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Georgia and PHMSA Regulators at PHMSA's Booth



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PHMSA's Finest



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Colonial Pipeline's Booth



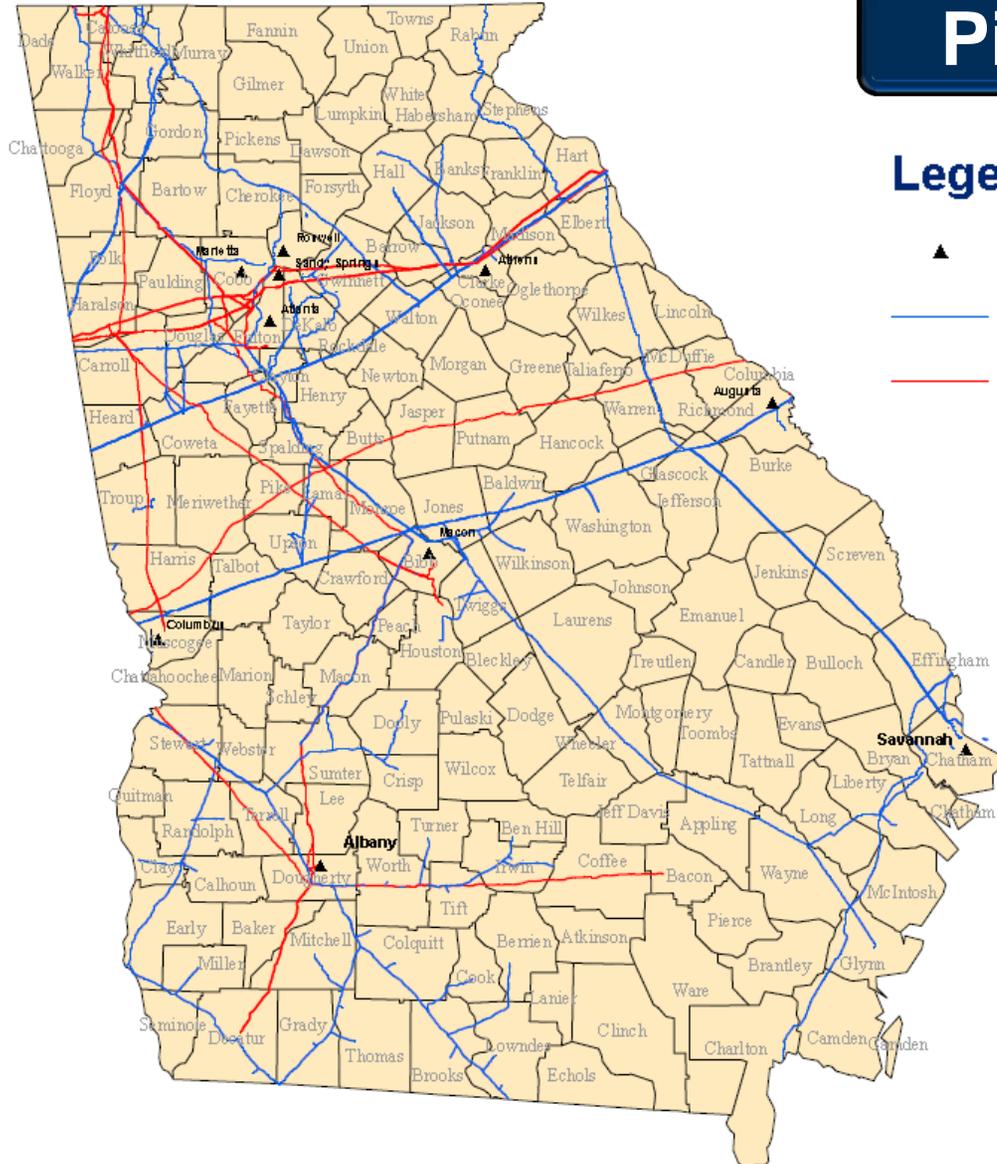
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Pipelines in Georgia

Legend

- ▲ Cities >55,000 population
- Interstate Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline
- Interstate Hazardous Liquid Pipeline



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Natchitoches, LA Incident

**Catastrophic gas transmission failure
March 1965 – 6:00 am**

- 17 fatalities (9 children), 9 hospitalized
 - Crater 15 feet deep, 75' x 30'
 - Flames > 400'
 - 5 houses leveled, 6 cars, 3 trucks melted
 - House furnishings – 15-20 acres
 - Sawmill damaged
 - Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act, 8/12/68
- OPS created under DOT**





San Bruno, CA Incident

- Population 41,114, 11 miles south of San Francisco
- September 9, 2010, 6:11 pm (PDT) – 30” gas line ruptured



- Crater 72 feet long, 26 feet wide
- 28 ft. section, 3,000 lbs., 100 feet
- 47.6 million ft.³ of gas released
- 8 fatalities and 58 injuries
- 38 homes destroyed, 70 damaged
- San Bruno FD arrive 6:13 pm
- 935 emergency responders





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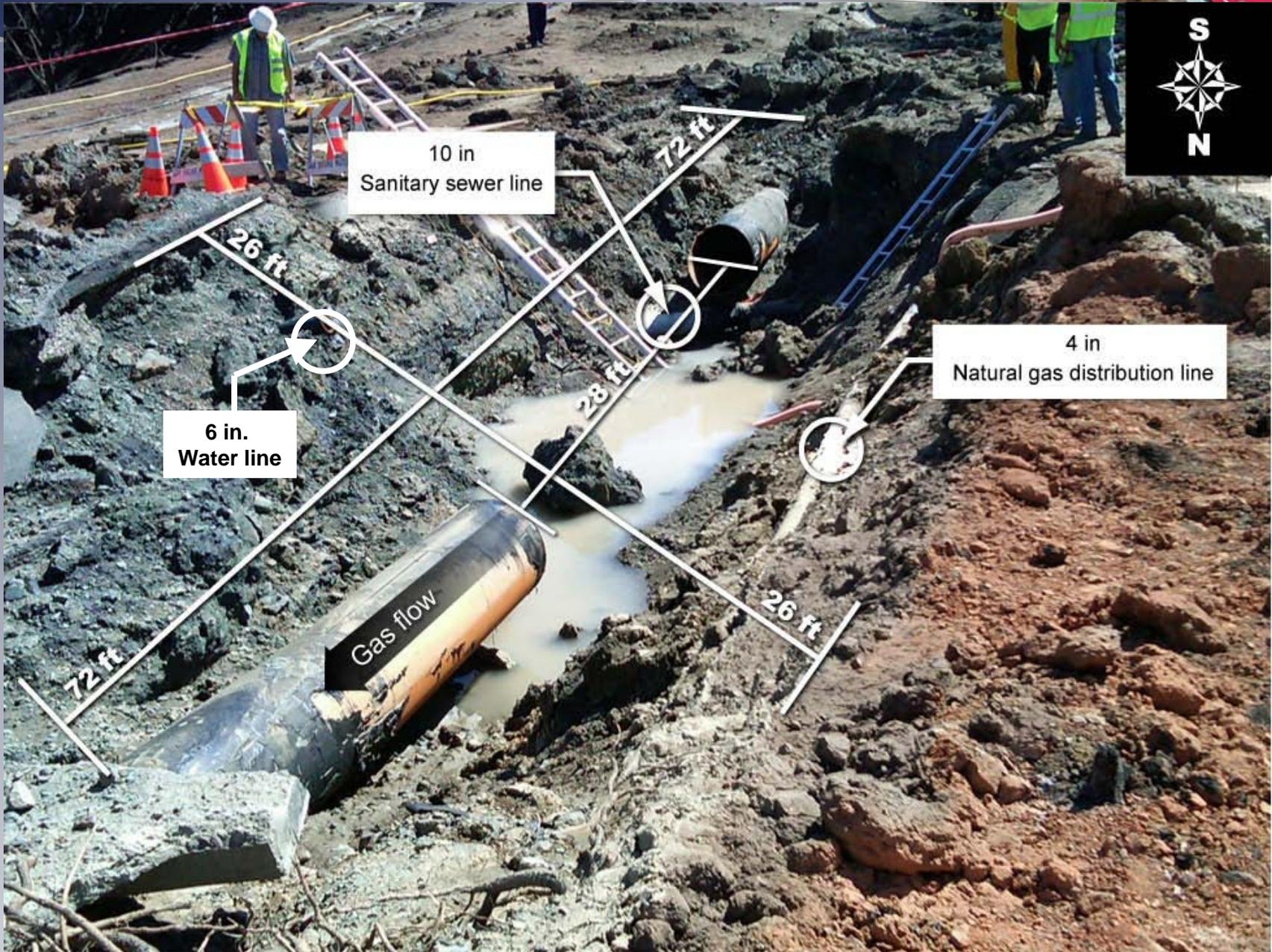


**Ruptured
section of pipe**

Earl Avenue

**Crater with
exposed gas pipe**

**Glenview Drive
looking south**





Thomson, GA Incident



- Georgia – July 2010
- 8” Liquid propane gas line ruptured and explosion
- 1 person injured, frostbite burns
- 1 person killed
- Double wide mobile home, jeep, bulldozer and 20 acres of woodland were destroyed
- 50 firefighters battled fire for 5 hours





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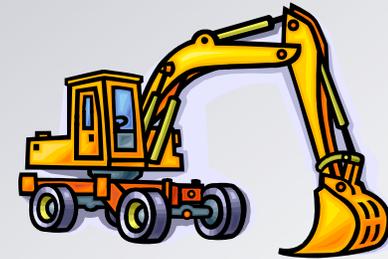
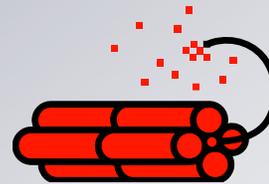


Damage Prevention Program 49 CFR 192.614 and 195.442

Pipeline operators must have *written programs* to prevent damage from excavation activities **and** *participate in qualified “one call” system*

What are “excavation activities”?

- Excavation
- Blasting
- Boring
- Tunneling
- Backfilling
- Removal of aboveground structures by explosive or mechanical means
- Other earthmoving operations



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PIPES ACT 2006

Third Party Excavators

Status:

ANPRM in FR

Oct 29, 2009

NPRM in FR

April 2, 2012

NPRM comment period ended

July 9, 2012

Final Rule Draft

April 2013

- Standards for effective state damage prevention enforcement programs
- Minimum requirements for excavators (use one-call, do not disregard operator's markings, promptly call operator/911)
- Enforcement procedures for PHMSA



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Key Points to Preventing Pipeline Damage



Better one-call notification enforcement



Respect instructions of pipeline personnel and wait proper time



Prompt reporting to operators when pipeline damaged



Comprehensive State DP Programs



All 9 elements contribute to reduction





Exemptions

- **Effective 1/3/2014 – no exemptions or no one-call and damage prevention grants**
- **Can approve States enforcement programs with exemptions, must justify (railroads, State DOT, agriculture)**
- **Homeowners not exempt**
- **If PHMSA exercises enforcement authority, will be considerate of State exemptions**
- **PHMSA in general opposes exemptions**
- **PHMSA study due 1/3/2014 looks at exemptions**





Part 196 – Protection of Underground Pipelines from Excavation Activity

- Excavation - 192.614 and non-mechanized equipment, including **hand tools**
- No special accommodations for homeowners who violate DP requirements
- Pipeline – pipe, valves, tracer wire, electronic marking devices, pumping units, compressor units, metering stations, delivery stations, holders, fabricated assemblies and breakout tanks
- If pipeline operator fails to respond to locate request or fails to mark accurately - civil penalties
- Criminal penalties may be imposed
- PHMSA collected fines go to U.S. Treasury





What Criteria Will PHMSA Use to Evaluate State Enforcement?

- Enforcement using civil penalties
- Designated agency or authority for enforcement
- Penalties assessed sufficient to deter non-compliance and info publically available showing program effectiveness
- Reliable mechanism for enforcement authority to find out about damage
- Investigation practices to determine responsible party when pipeline damaged
- Damage prevention program must have requirements for excavators from PIPES Act
- Written justification for exemptions (PHMSA will make public)





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Questions



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