



# Office of the State Fire Marshal

Facilitating Emergency  
Preparedness  
Communications  
Post-San Bruno  
April 13, 2011  
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Chronicle / Mike Kepka





# San Bruno Gas Pipeline Explosion

- The State Fire Marshal's office immediately began receiving inquiries from local agencies as to where to find the location of natural gas transmission pipelines in their community.
- Fire departments knew the State Fire Marshal had mapping information on hazardous liquid lines and were asking where to get information on the natural gas lines.
- US DOT's National Pipeline Mapping System was overloaded and difficult to obtain information in a timely manner.



# Fire agency inquires

- A few weeks after the incident, the focus of the inquiries turned to the location of and the safety record of the hazardous liquid pipelines.
- These calls caused some concern in our office as we knew that California has a law in place since 1988 requiring hazardous liquid pipeline owners to provide maps and contingency plans to local fire departments on an annual basis.
- I met with several fire departments to see what they knew or thought they knew about the hazardous liquid pipelines in their jurisdiction and if the operators had provided this information to them.



# Fire Department Meetings

## FINDINGS

- FD's had received the mapping information at one point another.
- FD's had outdated maps and old contact lists. Periodic updates did not keep up with company pipeline sales, name changes or mergers.
- Despite this, they seemed confident that they were resourceful enough to eventually track down the responsible party.
- Large and small fire departments have different resources and needs. (High Tech/ Low Tech). Some use paper maps, others have online access to the internet.



# Fire Department Meetings

## FINDINGS (cont.)

- Information received through meetings with pipeline operators were not well distributed within the fire department organization.
- Fire Departments and emergency response agencies need 24-hour access to pipeline operators maps and emergency contact numbers.



# SFM Communication Initiative

- The SFM is pursuing an initiative to provide a secure internet-based website hosted by a state agency such as the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA)
- This site would host both hazardous liquid and natural gas pipeline mapping and emergency contact information.
- This secure website would be accessible only to government agencies.
- SFM would be responsible to keep operator hazardous liquid data and maps current. We already collect this information from the operators.



# SFM Communication Initiatives

- Annual face to face meetings would still be necessary to discuss share information and discuss local agency concerns including training opportunities.
- Now is a great opportunity to reconnect with the fire departments along your pipeline rights-of-way. They have your attention and have now realized the need to stay on top of this issue.



# Pipeline Operator Concerns

- Would this proposal work for the industry?
- What are your concerns?
- Should Emergency Response Plans be part of the shared information? Portions of it? (Security or Privacy issues?)
- Seeking industry input?



# Questions?

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