

**INFORMATION FOR IMPROVEMENT:
SOME KEY PRACTICES FOR DAMAGE PREVENTION**

Background

The Environmental and Safety Initiative of the oil pipeline industry is a focused, industry-wide effort to improve the industry's performance led by senior executives of the member companies of the Association of Oil Pipe Lines and the American Petroleum Institute's Pipeline Committee. One such effort, spearheaded by the Performance Excellence Team (PET), analyzes industry incident data and preventative practices to facilitate practice sharing across the oil pipeline industry and identify opportunities for learning and implements programs to disseminate them.

Because third party damage continues to be the most important cause 1) of large pipeline spills, and 2) of spills and incidents involving public safety impacts including fatalities and injuries, PET has undertaken several initiatives to address the contributing factors.

The keys for damage prevention shown below have been extracted from one such PET initiative, a 2003 survey of industry practices that arrayed the incidents involving third party damage for a given operator against the operator's survey responses, and an industry-wide forum examining the scope of these practices. The Team's agenda for 2006 includes a second industry-wide forum to share and examine damage prevention practices.

Key Practices

The operators with the best records with respect to third party damage incidents employed one or more of the following practices:

- ❖ Foster active employee involvement in state one-call organizations
- ❖ Outreach to parties that are exempt from one-call under state law
- ❖ Maintain database of excavators and other companies/facilities working on company right-of-way (ROW)
- ❖ Contact and document contact of any unauthorized activity along ROW
- ❖ Enforce right of way agreements consistently with respect to ROW activities, depth of cultivation, plantings, structures, and other hazards
- ❖ Monitor ROW during excavation consistent with API Recommended Practice 1166.
- ❖ Conduct ROW maintenance and clearing programs consistently over time and geography.
- ❖ Pursue legal remedies against excavators or other parties that strike the line
- ❖ Provide information to communities regarding land use decisions that may affect safety on or near the pipeline ROW
- ❖ Experiment with and test new practices in the damage prevention area

Operators are encouraged to examine additional findings on third party damage incidents at the website for the Pipeline Performance Tracking System, the industry's voluntary spill reporting system: www.api.org/ppts; click on "documents" in the left pane.