



AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE



**American Petroleum Institute (API),
Association of Oil Pipe Lines (AOPL),
and North American First Responders:**

A vital partnership for an effective response to pipeline emergencies.

Representing a broad cross section of major North American liquids pipeline operators, the **API/AOPL Emergency Response Team (ERT)** is responsible for implementing API/AOPL strategy to proactively enhance hazardous liquid pipeline emergency communications, planning, preparedness and response. Further, the team represents the liquids pipeline industry in meetings with emergency response advocacy organizations.

Pipelines are one of the safest and most reliable methods to transport the large volumes of petroleum required every day by consumers, small businesses and industry in North America. Although interstate oil pipelines transport more than 14 billion barrels of petroleum each year, major releases from these pipelines are rare. Nevertheless, pipeline companies work hard to protect the public by preparing for possible incidents involving their pipelines and related facilities. With the support of the leadership of major North American pipeline companies, the API/AOPL ERT has launched several initiatives to better align the shared objectives of emergency response organizations, government and pipeline operators to promote a timely and effective response to a significant pipeline incident.

API/AOPL ERT initiatives include:

- Working with key emergency response organizations to develop **training programs** - including an online training portal **free of charge to first responders** - to provide all first responders access to relevant information about what to expect in a pipeline emergency and how to effectively respond.
- Increasing **opportunities for first responders and pipeline operators to participate in joint exercises** that test emergency response plans and build better working relationships.
- Periodic **Pipeline Emergency Response Forums**, which will bring together pipeline operators, emergency responders and regulatory agencies to share learnings from past pipeline emergencies and to discuss ways to enhance emergency response preparedness and cooperation among pipeline operators, first responders and regulators.
- The establishment of an **Emergency Response Advisory Board** – including representation from emergency response advocacy organizations and regulatory agencies – to provide knowledgeable counsel to API/AOPL member pipeline operators related to effective response to pipeline emergencies.
- The development of **guidelines and/or recommended practices** to provide pipeline operators with the tools needed to meet the expectations of our stakeholders for an effective response to a pipeline incident.



Together we can better protect our communities in the event of a pipeline emergency

Through joint emergency response exercises, through pipeline operators providing their local emergency responders information about their pipeline systems, through first responders sharing their concerns about how to better protect their communities during a pipeline emergency... **two-way communication is key to building a partnership** that will make a difference if faced with a major pipeline incident.

The **API/AOPL Emergency Response Team** is continually seeking a dialog with organizations concerned about effective and timely response to pipeline emergencies and welcomes ideas and suggestions for how the pipeline industry, emergency responders and regulators can enhance their preparedness for and response to a significant pipeline incident.

PIPELINES MAKE IT POSSIBLE.



Why Pipelines?

Liquid pipelines bring crude oil to the nation's refineries and important petroleum products to our communities, including all grades of gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, home heating oil, kerosene, propane, and biofuels. Pipelines also transport carbon dioxide to oil and natural gas fields, where it can be used efficiently to enhance production.

In addition to transportation, many other industries get raw materials by pipeline, including food, drugs and pharmaceuticals, plastics, chemicals, and road construction. Almost all gasoline is transported by pipeline. Trucks you see at the local gas station usually carry gasoline only the last few miles, after picking it up from a distribution terminal supplied by pipeline. Public transportation often depends upon liquid pipelines as well—many commuter railroads and city buses depend on the fuels we carry.

From the food and medicine we require to the cars we drive to the plastics that improve our lives - pipelines make it possible.

The Association of Oil Pipe Lines (AOPL) represents the interests of owners and operators of America's liquid pipelines. The American Petroleum Institute (API) is the only national trade association that represents all aspects of America's oil and natural gas industry.

For more information, please visit www.aopl.org/emergencyresponse or contact Karen Simon | simonk@api.org or John Stoodly | jstoodly@aopl.org