

Management Systems

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RP 1174

API Recommended Practice for Pipeline Emergency Preparedness and Response

Introduction to Emergency Response

This Recommended Practice (RP) has been developed for onshore hazardous liquid pipeline operators, with the intent to align industry, government, and emergency response organizations' expectations practices, and competencies and to promote safe, timely, and effective response to incidents.

The goal of this document is to provide operators with an enhanced framework to enable continual improvement of pipeline emergency response.

Emergency Management System consists of six fundamental steps:

1. Statements of the system's policies and objectives
2. Documented procedures
3. Documents, records, and job aids
4. Identification of legal and other applicable emergency response requirements
5. Processes intended to ensure continuity and promote system improvement
6. Measure goals and objectives

The Energy Pipeline Industry is Committed to Improving the Safety of America's Pipeline System

- Training
 - Maintaining responder capabilities through a documented training program, using the National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) guidelines and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS)
- Collaboration
 - Communicating with external stakeholders
- Drills
 - Engage and test responder knowledge through drills aimed at improving response capabilities

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Planning

The operator shall develop Response Plans to address the response to a release or the substantial threat of a release of hazardous liquids.

The operator should incorporate a risk-based approach for emergency response planning, utilizing likelihood and consequence.

The operator shall identify the roles and responsibilities of its emergency responders in accordance with NIMS Incident Command System (ICS) and communicate those responsibilities to designated personnel.

Emergency Procedures

The operator shall establish emergency response procedures that ensure the ability to communicate promptly, respond quickly to the emergency, mitigate risks, and protect people and the environment.

There are three initial emergency response phases:

Phase 1: Discovery, Shutdown, and Notification

Phase 2: Resource Mobilization

Phase 3: Initial Response Actions

Training Exercises

The operator shall develop a training and exercise program for emergencies. The operator shall use National PREP guidelines to satisfy exercise requirements.

The spill response training should prepare the response team members for operating in a NIMS ICS environment, for using response plans, and for recognizing the types of spills and response techniques.

The response shall use NIMS ICS, which is the only federally accepted response management system for emergency incidents. The operator may choose a variety of methods for ensuring its Incident Management Teams (IMTs) are competent in NIMS ICS.

The operator shall participate in annual IMT exercises.

Response

The operator's Response Plans to address the response to a release or the substantial threat of a release of hazardous liquids shall include:

1. Procedures and resources for responding to an incident.
2. Review of the National Contingency Plan (NCP) and any applicable Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) to ensure Response Plan consistency.
3. Procedures for complying with the NIMS.
4. Description of the roles of the federal, state, local, and tribal on-scene coordinators.
5. Responsibilities of the operator and of federal, state, local, or tribal agencies.
6. Safety procedures at the release site.
7. Tactical response guidelines.
8. Alternative response strategies including provisions that require agency approval such as in situ burning or dispersants.
9. Significant and substantial harm criteria in accordance with 49 CFR 194.103.
10. Environmentally sensitive area.
11. Historically, culturally, and economically sensitive areas.
12. Notification procedures.

Stakeholders Collaborating to Improve Safety

API Recommended Practices standardize and implement best practices across the industry

- Developed via open, accredited processes, with formal review and comment periods
- Provide all operators with the benefits of the industry's combined expertise in critical areas
- Once adopted and implemented, establish standard practices across the industry