

For Emergency Responders

El Paso Pipeline Group's Crisis Response Program: Working with You

The El Paso Pipeline Group is committed to running a safe, reliable pipeline system. As part of that commitment, we work closely with emergency response personnel to develop well-defined and extensively tested response plans in the event of a fire, rupture, major leak, or other serious incident occurring at or near one of our facilities. The response plans are designed to prepare our employees and local emergency response personnel to handle emergency situations involving our facilities and protect the public.

In the event of a suspected natural gas emergency:

- **Isolate the area** and restrict entry to trained emergency response personnel and designated El Paso Pipeline Group employees.
- **Establish isolation zones** based upon measurements from combustible gas indicator instruments. Gas odor or lack of gas odor is not sufficient to establish safe zones.
- **Avoid creating sparks.** Potential ignition sources for natural gas include electrical motors, firearms, static electricity, non-explosion-proof flashlights or tools, and any open flame or spark. Do not light a match, start an engine, use a telephone, switch lights on or off, or do anything that may create a spark.
- **Immediately make the operator aware of the situation.** Check the posted right of way or station signs to find out what company operates the pipeline and how to contact the operator.
- **Let the escaping gas burn if it is on fire.** Attempting to extinguish a natural gas fire may result in a secondary explosion. If necessary, provide cooling for nearby exposures that are threatened by the fire.
- **Let the El Paso Pipeline Group personnel operate the valves** to cut off the fuel supply. Do not operate the valves yourself.
- **Avoid forced ventilation of structures and excavations.** Forced ventilation can actually increase the possibility of a flammable atmosphere.

The El Paso Pipeline Group's field locations hold meetings with emergency responders on a regular basis to educate them on our operations. If you are interested in finding out more about this program or in attending a meeting, contact the El Paso Pipeline Group office nearest you.