



U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration



PHMSA - Office of Pipeline Safety Warren Miller



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SD/ND/WY Pipeline Safety Operators Training

OO: Failure Investigations

April 4, 2013



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ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION AND OPERATOR QUALIFICATION



Photos? – Wonder what it looked prior to any work



Note: If a hot work permit is required at the site of work – ensure a copy is located somewhere else!



Proving a meter:
A 2000# system and
a 1500# hose =
disaster





Things to Know

Immediate Communication of Accident/Incident

- Ensure OQ Manager/Coordinator is notified
- Determine if OQ tasks were being or had been performed
- Did any individuals contribute while performing covered tasks*



Things to Know

Reminder*

- Drug and alcohol testing needs to be considered if you cannot make a determination that the individual did not contribute to the accident/incident
- Document that you have made a determination. Be prepared to provide documentation of your decisions.



Things to Know

Perform an investigation (including pictures), when possible, to determine what the cause of the accident/incident is:

- Was the procedure followed?
- Was the correct equipment used?
- Did the individual encounter an issue that training did not address?



Things to Know

- Consider suspending the individual(s) from performing that covered task or tasks that may have contributed to the accident/incident until the investigation is completed.
- His or her continued performance of that covered task while the investigation is being completed could compromise your system.



Things to Know

After the investigation, develop a plan of action, implement the action, and have all areas of your operation in the communication loop:

- OQ - Company and contractor employees
- Procedures (O&M)
- Training
- Contracts (possible)



Things to Know

Close the Loop!

- Communicate to all effected groups and individuals
- Take action so that it will not occur again
- Ensure changes have been implemented
- Check records



Things to be Proactive

- **Pictures prior to performing any work**
 - Documents markings and condition of location where working
- **Permits and other Documents in Hand**
- **Work Plan**
- **Current Procedures**
- **Media Spokesperson**



LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- **CAN YOU ANSWER THE QUESTIONS?**
- **DO YOU HAVE DOCUMENTATION SUPPORTING YOUR ANSWERS?**
- **HAVE YOU ACTED PROMPTLY?**
- **HAVE YOU DONE ENOUGH?**



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ANY QUESTIONS?

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