2020 – March 4 – Editorial Section
Approved additions and revisions to guide material under §192.319. Ready for LB.

PRIMARY: 192.319
PURPOSE: Review GM 3.4 and consider adding GM regarding rubber-tired vs metal-track vehicles.
   Review of NTSB Pipeline Accident Brief PAB-1801: TransCanada Corporation Pipeline (Keystone Pipeline) Rupture, Amherst, SD. Ad Hoc TG presentation; TG approved a new TR for 192.319, Section 3.4, to add guidance about using rubber tired equipment vs. metallic track vehicles.
   49 CFR 192.319 states requirements for the proper installation of pipe. Basically, it states that we must protect the pipe before, during and after installation. GM "3.4 Consolidation." there is a discussion which implies that "...wheel rolling..." is an acceptable practice. This practice is basically used to compress the soil in a new trench and is in common usage in our industry. It is generally a safe practice.
   However, this PAB implies that this practice of "wheel rolling" may have been done with a large piece of equipment with metal tracks. This would make sense because these types of equipment are very heavy and would compress the soil very efficiently. Unfortunately, in this case, it was the likely cause of this incident.
   Believe that, within our guide material under "3.4 Consolidation" we add wording to the effect that this process should only be done with equipment which has rubber tires or, state a caution against using metal track vehicles, or anything else that would appropriately guide operators to avoid this practice.
RESPONSIBLE GROUP: Damage Prevention/Emergency Response Task Group

Section 192.319

3.4  Consolidation.
If trench flooding is used to consolidate the backfill, care should be taken to see that the pipe is not floated from its firm bearing on the trench bottom. Where mains are installed in existing or proposed roadways or in unstable soil, flooding should be augmented by wheel rolling or mechanical compaction. Multi-lift mechanical compaction can be used in lieu of flooding. Prior to use, the operator should consider the possibility of damage caused by wheel rolling or mechanical compaction equipment.