The Pipeline Security Guidelines — March 2018 (with Change 1 (April 2021)) lists guidance criteria TSA is expecting the operator to leverage in the identification of critical facilities on the operator’s pipeline system. To aid operators in applying the guidance, TSA focuses on seven leading criteria and differentiates each criteria to three major pipeline subsectors. This infographic specifically addresses Criteria #3 for the Natural Gas Distribution Subsector and considerations for how it may be applied.

Facilities Operating Near Occupied Buildings or Areas
(Operator may choose to follow path A or path B shown below)

Path A
Overwhelms Healthcare System
Determine which areas in service territory if compromised can result in a natural gas event that “overwhelms” the local healthcare system.

Leverage DIMP or Comparable Methodology
Single Point of Failure or No Redundancy*
- Operate at pressures above 125 PSIG
- Operate in a Class 4 location (regardless of operating pressure) as defined in DOT 49 CFR
- Operate in a Class 3 location (regardless of operating pressure) and do not have service regulators installed or redundant overpressure protection systems

Path B
Leverage DIMP or Comparable Methodology
Single Point of Failure or No Redundancy*
- Operate at pressures above 125 PSIG
- Operate in a Class 4 location (regardless of operating pressure) as defined in DOT 49 CFR
- Operate in a Class 3 location (regardless of operating pressure) and do not have service regulators installed or redundant overpressure protection systems

Overwhelms Healthcare System
Determine which areas in service territory if compromised can result in a natural gas event that “overwhelms” the local healthcare system.

Operator-Generated Methodology
Weather
Operators should consider variation in service territory and facility siting, differences in regional weather extremes and distinctions among risk profiles.

High Risk (Tiered) Facilities Under DHS CFATS
CFATS
Designated as high risk (Tiered Facility) under the DHS Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program.

Critical Facility
Critical Facility Based on Facilities Operating Near Occupied Buildings or Areas

Critical Facilities For all of Criteria #3