TR 2022-33 –Notification of Rupture

Primary Reference	192.615
Purpose	Review existing GM and revise as appropriate in light of Amendment 192-130.
Origin/Rationale	Amendment 192-130
Assigned to	DP/ER Task Group

Note: *Revisions are shown in yellow highlight and red font.*

Section 192.615

Notes:
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1 WRITTEN EMERGENCY PROCEDURES (§192.615(a))

(a) ...
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1.1 Receiving, identifying, and classifying emergencies.

(a) ...

(b) Instructions to operator personnel should ensure that the information received is evaluated to determine the priority for action. Some situations call for operator personnel to be dispatched promptly for an on-the-scene investigation. Those personnel should respond in an urgent manner giving a potential emergency top priority until the severity of the situation has been determined. Some situations require that priority be given to other actions, such as notification to gas control, other operator or local emergency response personnel. See 3.3 below.

Examples of emergency situations that require immediate response include the following.

(1) Gas ignition or explosion.
(2) A hissing noise is present or there is any indication of a broken or open-ended pipe.
(3) Report of a pulled service or damaged facility.
(4) Report of a release that may be representative of an unintentional and uncontrolled release, requiring evaluation to confirm if a rupture has occurred.
(5) Observation by operator of an unanticipated or unplanned pressure loss outside normal operating parameters as defined in operating procedures.
(6) Observation by operator of an unexplained flow rate or pressure change, or instrumentation indication that may be representative of a rupture.
(~~4~~7) Gas odor throughout the premise or building.
(~~5~~8) Other identified (i.e., operator designated) emergencies.

(c) ...

1.2 Establishing and maintaining adequate means of communication.

(a) Arrangements made for establishing and maintaining adequate public and operator communications should be described. These arrangements should include means of communication with appropriate fire, police, and other public officials. Operators may opt to establish liaison with local emergency coordinating agencies such as 911 call centers or emergency managers in lieu of fire, police, and other public officials individually, and should consider the need for the following.

(1) Continuously updated operator and public emergency call lists that will show how to contact personnel that may be required to respond to an emergency at any hour.
(2) Resources and responsibilities must be determined for jurisdictional areas and emergency contacts for local and out-of-area calls (§192.615(a)(2)).
(~~2~~3) Multiple telephone trunk lines to the emergency operations center.

(~~3~~4) Additional switchboard facilities and personnel.
(~~4~~5) "Unlisted" telephone service to ensure accessibility to operator-only calls.
(~~5~~6) Additional fixed and mobile radio equipment.
(~~6~~7) Standby electrical generating equipment for communications power supply.
(~~7~~8) Dissemination of accurate information to the news media and cooperation with the news media on the scene.
(~~8~~9) A social media program to gather and disseminate information.

(b) Operators may establish liaison with local emergency coordinating agencies such as 911 call centers or emergency managers in lieu of fire, police, and other public officials individually (§192.615(a)(2)).

(~~b~~c) Instructions for working effectively with the local ICS should be described as follows.
(1) ...
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(~~c~~d) Consider providing operator's first-responder personnel with intrinsically safe communication devices to carry with them while on duty. Be aware of communication blind spots.

1.3 Prompt and effective response to each type of emergency.
Various types of emergencies will require different responses in order to evaluate and mitigate the hazard. Consideration should be given to the following.

(a) Emergencies involving gas detected in or near buildings should be prioritized in order to have sufficient operator personnel for response. For leak classification and action criteria, refer to Guide Material Appendices G-192-11 for natural gas systems and G-192-11A for petroleum gas systems. See §192.605(b)(11), which requires procedures for prompt response to reports of a gas odor in or near buildings.
(b) Emergencies involving damage to buried facilities during excavation activities should be assessed for potential hidden and multiple leak locations.
(c) Emergencies involving fire located on or near pipeline facilities may require those facilities to be isolated. If a major delivery point is involved, an alternative gas supply may be needed.
(d) Emergencies involving an explosion on or near pipeline facilities may result in damage from fire and shock waves.
(e) Emergencies involving blowing or ignited gas may hinder local emergency responders' search and rescue efforts.
(f) Emergencies involving a potential or confirmed rupture must be immediately and directly communicated to ~~the~~ an appropriate public safety answering point (e.g., 911 call centers) or an emergency coordinating agency to determine the location of any release, regardless of whether the segment is subject to requirements for transmission line valves. (§192.615(a)(8))
(~~f~~g) Natural disasters, such as earthquakes and other significant earth movement (e.g., landslides, mudslides, sinkholes), floods, hurricanes, tidal waves, tornadoes, or wildfires, might affect the safe operation of pipeline facilities in many different ways. Manmade disasters, such as mine subsidence, sabotage, infrastructure collapse, or corrosive chemical discharge, might also affect safe operations. Operators affected by these disasters should dispatch personnel to the areas as soon as practicable to evaluate the situation and proceed with emergency response related to their gas facilities, as necessary, to keep or make conditions safe. Operators of pipeline facilities affected by natural disasters should address these situations in the emergency procedures and consider preparing a disaster plan including site-specific procedures, if appropriate. The procedures and plan may include the items listed below.
Note: Multiple advisory bulletins have been issued regarding the potential for damage to pipeline facilities caused by the passage of hurricanes and flooding. For examples, see OPS Advisory Bulletin ADB-2015-02 (80 FR 36042, June 23, 2015; see Guide Material

Appendix G-192-1, Section 2) and the advisory bulletin referenced in 6 of the guide material under §192.613.

(1) Information on responsibilities for operator personnel communication and work assignments.

(2) Information on alternative reporting locations for operator personnel in case the primary location is damaged or inaccessible.

(3) Procedures to assess damage, ~~and~~ mitigate hazardous conditions, and minimize hazards of released gas to life, property, or the environment, which may include the following.

(i) Establishing an operations and communications command center.

(ii) Establishing a field command post.

(iii) Determining personnel, material, and equipment requirements.

(iv) Deploying personnel to sites and locations where they can take appropriate actions, such as shutdown, pressure reduction, isolation, or containment.

(v) Evaluating the accessibility of pipeline facilities that may be in jeopardy such as valves and regulator stations needed to isolate the system.

(vi) Performing frequent patrols to evaluate the effects on pipeline facilities.

(vii) Determining the extent of damage to pipeline facilities.

(viii) Ensuring line markers are still in place or replaced in a timely manner for operator-defined critical locations or facilities.

(ix) Determining if facilities that are normally above ground (e.g., valves, regulators, relief devices) have become submerged and are in danger of being struck by vessels or debris. Facilities in danger of being struck by vessels should be marked with an appropriate buoy if the locations can be reached safely.

(x) Performing surveys to determine the depth of cover over pipelines and the condition of any exposed pipelines, such as those crossing scour holes or where water channels have changed. For pipelines in the Gulf of Mexico and its inlets with waters less than 15 feet deep, see §192.612.

(xi) Evaluating right-of-way conditions at water crossings during the flooding and after waters subside by performing patrols, including appropriate overflights. Notify appropriate staff of any localized or systemic flooding to determine whether pipeline crossings may have been damaged or would be in imminent jeopardy from future flooding.

Note: After the emergency response, information about the presence of pipelines and the risks posed by reduced cover should be shared with the affected landowners and with contractors, highway departments, and others involved in restoration activities following the natural or manmade disaster. Agricultural agencies may help inform farmers of the potential hazard from reduced cover.

(4) Procedures to re-establish normal operations including service restoration and progress tracking and reporting. For large-scale outages of distribution systems, see Guide Material Appendix G-192-7.

(5) Other considerations.

(i) Maintaining mutual assistance agreements with other pipeline operators.

(ii) Providing accommodations for operator personnel and other assisting personnel.

(iii) Shutting off gas service to an affected area if evacuations of that area are being made by police or fire departments.

1.4 Assuring the availability of personnel, equipment, tools, and materials.

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