



WORKING TOGETHER IS
WORKING FOR GEORGIA

GEORGIA PIPELINE EMERGENCY
RESPONSE INITIATIVE



GPERI



How it Began

2012: First meeting was conducted about needs. Brought together pipeline stakeholders to discuss ways to improve emergency response as the Georgia Pipeline Operator & Emergency Responders Coalition. (GPOERC)

- **State and federal regulators, operators and emergency responders**

From this collaboration the Georgia Pipeline Emergency Response Initiative (GPERI) was created to develop a comprehensive program for educating Georgia's first responders





GPOERC Board

Multi-stakeholder Board created under umbrella of the GAFC

8 Voting Positions

- 4 selected by GAFC
- 4 pipeline industry (interstate liquid and gas, investor-owned and municipal LDC)

5 Non-Voting Positions

- Director GFA, Pres. Ga 811, GPERI Manager, PSC designee





Who Needs the Training?

Emergency Responders- ALL of them including

- **Career/Volunteer FF, Chief Officers. Co. Officers, Law Enforcement, 911 Dispatchers, and Gas Utility workers.**
- **Gas Operators- invite them and encourage to attend**
- **Recently added Georgia Forestry Commission Firefighters**

**WE WANT THEM ALL TRAINING TOGETHER SINCE
THEY WILL ALL BE RESPONDING TOGETHER.**





Issues with Training Emergency Responders

“Build it and they will come”. Not so much.

Firefighters and other ERs are already extremely busy. They are for the most part NOT going to come to you for additional non-compulsory training.

Created a marketing/promoting position to “sell” the training to them.

Meets ALL training requirements, shift friendly, and volunteer friendly.





Selling To Operators

Used tiered approach so affordable. Recently reduced amount.

Show where their investment is beneficial and providing training to target audience.

Currently records are housed at the GPSTC. GPOERC looking to purchase a software data program to house data for all involved parties.

Can help with liaison requirements if attended by operators





The Curriculum

- Decided that using rank as a need for the different classes was not the best way to go. Program updated since beginning.
 - 4 hr. course – course covers the basics of this program and covers and meets all the objectives
 - 8 hr. course – course gets into more detail and uses more case studies and exercises
 - 16 hr. course - used for Train the Trainer only now





The Delivery

- **Planned training delivery methods:**
 - **Direct Classroom**
 - **At Georgia Public Safety Training Center campus (not the best delivery method)**
 - **Classroom-in-the-field with career, combination or volunteers (works the best)**
 - **GPSTC regional training facilities**
 - **Inservice by departments who have instructors**





Successes

Program has been well received by emergency responders around the state. We listened to their comments and made appropriate changes when needed.

Operators and regulators have supported the program from the beginning.

Georgia takes pride in being looked at as the model state for PERI programs.

Communication between all stakeholders. #1





Opportunities/Challenges

Getting the training to everyone that needs it.

Volunteers- we realize that with over 70% of our firefighters are volunteers that it is going to be difficult to get most of them.

We live in an ever-changing environment with new technologies and changes in personnel. We realize we must have a “fluid” program that changes with the times.





Looking Ahead

Can't be a "one and done" mentality. We are in the process of developing a Phase II to the program. This would involve "hands-on" training.

On-line training. Particularly for a recert type training.

Continually identifying who else needs the training and developing programs for them.





Georgia Pipeline Emergency Response Initiative

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