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# Pipeline Emergency Responders Initiative (PERI)

## Public Awareness Workshop

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

To Protect People and the Environment From the Risks of  
Hazardous Materials Transportation



# Overview

- What is PERI?
- Why is PERI needed?
- How did PERI get started?
- Where are we now?
- Where do we go from here?





## What is a Pipeline Emergency Responders Initiative (PERI)?

**Public-private partnership among emergency response organizations and pipeline operators to improve emergency response.**

# What Do We Want to Accomplish with PERI?

- ✓ **Enhance responders understanding of pipeline risks and hazards;**
- ✓ **Strengthen relations in the interest of public safety;**
- ✓ **Improve management of pipeline emergencies nationwide**



# Regulatory Requirements

## Emergency Plans - 192.615 and 195.402

- Written procedures for notifying appropriate fire, police, and other public officials of gas and liquid pipeline emergencies
- Establish and maintain liaison with appropriate fire, police, and other public officials



## Public Awareness - 192.616 and 195.440

- Messages to emergency responders and public officials



## May 15, 2012 Meeting in Sandy Springs

- **Hosted by Sandy Springs Fire Chief Jack McElfish**
- **Over 50 attendees**
- **Steering Committee formed**
- **Local media coverage**



# Steering Committee Members

- *Fire Departments*
- *Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs (GAFC)*
- *Georgia State Fire Fighters Association (GSFFA)*
- *Georgia State Fire Marshall's Office*
- *Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA)*
- *Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC)*
- *Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC)*

- *Georgia Municipal Association (Gas Section)*
- *Municipal gas systems*
- *Interstate pipeline operators (gas and liquids)*
- *Intrastate pipeline operators (gas)*

- *Georgia Public Service Commission (GAPSC)*
- *Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA)*



# GPERI Mission Statement

*Advance the ability of Georgia emergency responders to manage pipeline emergencies through improved training, cooperation and communication with pipeline operators*



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# Tim Butters Addressing Georgia Fire Chiefs



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# PHMSA's Finest



# Colonial Pipeline Display



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# GPRI Emphasis on Prevention

- Response important, but prevention says lives
- Damage Prevention content incorporated into “Pipeline Emergencies” course
  - Role & importance of 811
  - Underground utility locating process
  - Excavation awareness (how to tell if a line has been located at a working job site)



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# Status of PERIs



**Oklahoma**  
Initial meeting 07/22/16



[www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/safety-awareness-and-outreach/PERI](http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/safety-awareness-and-outreach/PERI)



## Challenges Moving Forward with PERI

- **Providing sustainable pipeline safety training for ERs**
- **Overcoming low priority placed on pipeline emergencies training**
- **Key emergency responder participation**
- **Meeting logistics**
- **Increased demands on time of ERs**
- **Establishing baseline to measure progress**
- **Establishing entity and funding to sustain program**



# Why will PERIs Succeed?



**BECAUSE EVERYONE  
BENEFITS**





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