



WEST CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
3702 Loop 322  
Abilene, TX 79602

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, PIPELINE SAFETY, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT  
**MIDTERM PROGRESS REPORT**  
**Award # DTPH5615GPPT22**  
**March 31, 2016**

The following PHMSA grant activities were implemented during the period October 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016.

1. **Project Planning**

Target Period: Quarter 1 through Quarter 3

Project Status: Complete/Ongoing

WCTCOG Regional Services Director, received notice of grant approval, established office space, developed job description, collaborated with local staffing agency regarding possible applicant pool, and hired Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff. **October 2015**

WCTCOG Staff has been unable to acquire or view maps through the PHMSA system beyond what is available to general public. Staff has requested copies of maps from Texas Railroad Commission (TX-RRC) that are within the WCTCOG 19-county region. Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff is in process of creating maps through ARC GIS software with an overlay of the WCTCOG 9-1-1 addressing system maps for the 19- county region (actual homeowner information will not be included), but the maps will have current, correct labeled street, county road/FM road and state highway information as well as possible subdivision information, planned communities, infrastructure plans, and floodplain data. WCTCOG staff has received agreements with many municipalities and counties to also include utilities (transmission lines, water/sewer, and telecommunication/fiber optics) For the purpose of planning with properly updated maps which also include natural gas, fuel lines, and standard underground commodities.

**A. Task: Inform and update region's chief elected officials and local leaders of Pipeline Safety grant project benefits for local communities.**

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff collaborated with Texas 811 call centers, utility companies, regional contractors, city employees and local officials through active participation in

four regional damage prevention councils (Red River DPC, Heart of Texas DPC, Big Country DPC, and Concho Valley DPC).

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff provided project information to multiple departments within all WCTCOG agency staff. Reviewed the Pipeline Safety Outreach project objectives and discussed roles of elected officials and local leaders.

- B. TASK: Staff will develop and maintain Damage Prevention Council(s) regional directory to include pipeline operators, city and utility contacts, and emergency response personnel to be distributed to local elected officials.**

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff collected, developed and maintains pipeline safety information, new resource links and Damage Prevention Council Directory, with the most current data.

- C. Task: WCTCOG will develop and maintain Pipeline safety webpage to include all grant required information and data**

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff created a basic information page and is working with WCTCOG webmaster to create an efficient and effective webpage, regarding pipeline safety.

- D. Task: Staff will conduct a survey reviewing the regions' emergency plan to ensure inclusion of pipeline safety hazards.**

PM: Regional Services Director and Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff ensured the Homeland Security department and 9-1-1 department staff receive on-going information targeted for the emergency management coordinators throughout the region. Active participation in the Damage Prevention councils has been encouraged and discussed.

PM: West Central Texas Council of Governments, Homeland Security Program to include pipeline hazards and safety issues in the Homeland Security Advisory Committee information dissemination.

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff reviewed PHMSA and Texas Railroad Commission websites for new information and available links for resources.

**2).Goal: Damage Prevention Council Membership**

**Target Period: Quarter 1 through Quarter 4**

**Project Status: On-going**

- A. PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) program staff attended meetings of the Big Country, Concho Valley, Heart of Texas and Red River Damage Prevention Councils. Majority of attendees and membership are pipeline industry;
- B. PM; WCTCOG Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff solicited feedback and cooperation for project success. Encouraged and invited local officials to attend respective regional meetings.

- C. PM: PSO provided feedback of the chief elected officials' comments and responses to the information already provided; Requested assistance in identifying best public education resources and identifying local public contact opportunities for 2016 PSO project year.
- D. PM: PSO staff actively participated in planning for coordinated public awareness events. Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff was election to board, as the Scribe/Secretary of the Big Country Damage Prevention Council.

**3).Goal: Public Events**

**Target Period: End Quarter 4**

**Project Status: Complete and On-going**

- A. PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff scheduled events for National Safe Digging month for April and Requested local municipalities and counties support in issuing public proclamations in support.
- B. PM: WCTCOG Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff attended Abilene Chamber of Commerce Wake-up Wednesday and Business After Hours events and networked with local businesses: construction, plumbing, and Communication providers.
- C. PM: WCTCOG Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff attended annual Paradigm Liaison event, Abilene TX.
- D. PM: WCTCOG staff and Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff participated in county wide health fairs in Knox County (Benjamin)-150 participants, Taylor County (Abilene) -1500 participants and in Haskell County (Haskell)-250 participants. The WCTCOG staff and PSO participated by distributing information, public outreach items and provided technical assistance through questions and answers and best management practice ideas regarding pipeline safety and the 811 one-call system to thousands of participants. In the process the WCTCOG staff began to establish networks and identify specific area needs for future planning and outreach events.
- E. PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) program staff participated in the Texas Farm-Ranch-Wildlife expo held at the Taylor County expo center, Abilene Texas. The event attracted over an estimated 4,000 people in a 100 mile radius. WCTCOG and PSO staff participated by distributing information, public outreach items, and providing technical assistance through notification and education of pipeline safety programs available within the 19-county region by educating the rural participants on issues specific to those in attendance.
- F. PM: WCTCOG staff and PSO staff attended the annual Paradigm meeting held at the City of Abilene Civic Center. In attendance were local DPC meeting operators, local and emergency officials, utility providers, local elected officials, DPS officers, local first responders and emergency management personnel. Many in attendance were engaged in an exchange of information regarding systems and capabilities to plan accordingly in the event of a line strike or

other emergencies. The event also provided a platform to encourage participation in regional Damage Prevention Councils.

**4). Goal: Promote Pipeline Safety in the Region**

**Target Period: Quarter 2, Quarter 3, Quarter 4**

**Project Status: On-Going**

- A. PM: WCTCOG Staff and Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff participated in the Abilene Board of Realtors program luncheon, Abilene Texas -150+ in attendance, including insurance providers, realtors, pest control, banking professionals and such. Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff gave a presentation on pipeline damage prevention and utilizing the one call system. The presentation provided an opportunity for PSO staff to answer any questions and discuss ongoing problems that local realtors or developers may have.
- B. PM: PSO staff provided 811 and other damage prevention materials to local city managers and county judges for dissemination at city hall buildings/county facilities’.
- C. PM: PSO staff provided 811 and other damage prevention materials to local Keep Texas Beautiful affiliate for dissemination to volunteers
- D. PM: PSO staff gave a presentation to 4-H members in Knox and Haskell Counties and provided 811 and other damage prevention materials to those in attendance
- E. PM: WCTCOG staff began planning with Texas 811 a mock line strike event
- F. PM: WCTCOG staff began planning with Texas 811 and Magellan Pipeline to host a training luncheon for area mobile home installer companies.
- G. PM: WCTCOG staff development of WCTCOG Pipeline Safety Outreach through Billboards and newspaper ads.
- H. PM: WCTCOG staff began working with area vendors for Pipeline Safety outreach materials artwork and specification development

## **Outreach & Education/ Events/ Presentations Made/ Meetings Attended**

October 8, 2015 – Heart of Texas DPC Meeting, Brownwood Texas  
October 10, 2015 – Knox County Health & Safety Fair, Benjamin, Texas  
October 14, 2015 – Big Country DPC Meeting, Abilene Texas  
October 21, 2015 – Haskell County Health & Safety Fair, Haskell, Texas  
October 28, 2015 – Texas Midwest Community Network Annual Conference, Abilene, Texas

November 9, 2015 -Mock Line Strike Event Demonstration, South Plains DPC, Lubbock Texas  
November 18, 2015 – Big Country GIS Day, Abilene Texas

December 14, 2015 – Big Country DPC Meeting, Abilene Texas

January 8, 2016 – Knox County Rural Leadership Presentation, Benjamin Texas  
January 13, 2016 – Taylor County Health & Wellness Expo, Abilene Texas  
January 20, 2016 – Heart of Texas DPC Meeting, Brownwood, Texas  
January 26, 2016 – Concho Valley DPC, San Angelo, Texas

February 1, 2016 – Abilene Board of Realtors Pipeline Outreach presentation, Abilene Texas  
February 7, 2016 – Haskell County 4-H Pipeline Safety presentation, Haskell, Texas  
February 16, 2016 – Red River DPC, Wichita Falls Texas  
February 18, 2016 – Big Country DPC, Abilene, Texas  
February 23 & 24, 2016 – Texas Farm & Ranch Expo, Abilene Texas  
February 26, 2016 – Paradigm Meeting, Abilene Texas  
February 26, 2016- Big Country DPC –Safety Day Planning Meeting

March 11, 2016 – Career Day, Wylie Middle School presentation, Abilene Texas  
March 30, 2016- Big Country DPC meeting, Abilene Texas