CAL FIRE-OFFICE OF THE
STATE FIRE MARSHAL
PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

2018 Pipeline Safety
workshop, Antioch, CA

Jim Hosler
Supervising Pipeline Safety Engineer
Defining Moments

- 1980 - Gale Ave fire - Long Beach – spawned legislation creating our program
- 1989 – Runaway Train derailment & subsequent Calnev pipeline fire – San Bernardino - NTSB investigation - 4 fatalities
- 1994 - Northridge earthquake - Fire and failure of oxyacetylene pipeline
- 2004 - Walnut Creek fire - 5 fatalities – largest civil penalty - $325,000
- 2015 Refugio Oil Spill - SB295/AB864
Pipeline Safety Division

The State Fire Marshal is directly responsible for regulating the safety of approximately 6,000+ miles of hazardous liquid transportation pipelines and 42 operators within California.

The Pipeline Safety Division, will consist of 21 engineers, analytical staff, and clerical support located in both northern and southern California.

The Division is mandated by State law to exercise exclusive safety regulatory and enforcement authority over intrastate hazardous liquid pipelines and also acts as an agent of the federal Office of Pipeline Safety in the inspection of more than interstate pipelines.
Pipeline Safety Staff

- 1 Chief, 3 Supervisors (1), 12 engineers (4)
- Final Planned staffing
- 5 Supervisors
- 21 Engineers
- Total projected staff 38 persons
Staff Training

- Each engineer must attend a half dozen or more week-long training courses at PHMSA training facility in Oklahoma city. These should be completed in the 1st - 3 years of employment.
- Pre-requisite to conducting field inspections on their own.
What we regulate

- Most hazardous liquid pipelines in public areas
- Offshore pipelines
- Commodities
  - Crude
  - Gasoline, diesel, jet fuel
  - Ethanol
  - CO2
  - Anhydrous ammonia
Field inspection activity

- Operator Qualification
- Public awareness
- Construction & Design
- Emergency response plans
- Operation & maintenance records
- Drug & Alcohol
- Integrity Management
Integrity Management

- Pressure testing program
  - SFM was the first state to require periodic testing of pipelines – since 1985
  - Utilizes ~ a dozen independent witness firms

- Smart Pigs
- Corrosion Control
- Coating
- Pipe Wall thickness
- Cracks – Longitudininally – Circumferential
24 hour on-call

- OES is notified of all pipeline spills (including train derailments)
- OES contacts SFM pipeline supervisor – 24 hrs a day
- Each notification is checked vs. our pipeline map and investigated if jurisdictional
- Pipeline safety engineers are required to respond 24 hrs a day
GIS program

- Provide mapping info to local and state governments
- Responds to over 1300 annual requests for pipeline location information
- Centralized data and mapping information for pipeline facilities in the state
Abandoned pipeline archive

- The cities and counties in California have lost track of the buried hazardous liquid pipelines in their streets.
- Failed to update their city maps
- Companies have merged and changed names.
- We maintain files and maps of all lines abandoned since 1985.
- We now require abandonment plans from operators
- Currently receive ~ 50+ requests a year to review our old maps to help identify old pipelines
Federal Audit

- Federal inspector reviews our procedures, records, inspector performance for conformance to DOT program certification standards.
- Grant money tied to performance.
Guiding Principles

- Strive to excel at customer service
- Protect the public and the environment
- Develop cooperative agency/industry relationships
- Treat industry fairly and objectively
- Treat employees as family members
- Educate, Train & Enforce
SB295-
51015.1. (Elder Pipeline Act of 1981)
(a) Commencing January 1, 2017, the State Fire Marshal, or an officer or employee authorized by the State Fire Marshal, shall annually inspect all intrastate pipelines and operators of intrastate pipelines under the jurisdiction of the State Fire Marshal to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations. By January 1, 2017, the State Fire Marshal shall adopt regulations implementing this subdivision.
AB864-

- The goal of AB 864 is to protect environmentally sensitive area and state waters and wildlife by reducing the amount of hazardous liquid released in a spill.
- This regulation is still being developed goal is to implement by the end of this year.
Chief, 2 Supervisors, 10 engineers (4 vacant)

Average age: 54 years

Average Years with SFM pipeline: 12

Currently eligible to retire: 7

Expected to retire within 12 months: 2

Expected to retire in 5 years: 5
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