



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Pipeline Operators/Emergency Responders Initiatives

Alabama Pipeline Safety Seminar

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Overview

- **What is GPERI?**
- **Why is GPERI needed?**
- **How did GPERI get started?**
- **Where are we now?**



What is GPERI?

A public-private partnership among emergency response organizations and pipeline operators to improve emergency response in the state of Georgia.

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

Why a Public-Private Partnership?

- **Public Safety responders have seen shrinking budgets and reduced funding for all levels of service**
- **Unacceptable strain on resources responding to incidents**
- **Responders need and want accurate and timely information**



Drivers for Change in Georgia

Firefighters squeezing off gas lines when ruptured in AGLR footprint. Need to change behaviors

JULY 2010 Meeting of GPSC, GA Association of Fire Chiefs: No firefighter involvement on the issues affecting them

Increased industry focus on effectiveness of ER training & liaison

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

MARCH, 2008

GA Public Service Commission issues Final Rule: County-wide Gas Safety Plans to reduce confusion/duplication of efforts

SEPTEMBER 9, 2010

San Bruno: "What pipeline?"

Are GA firefighters adequately informed?

MAY 15, 2012

First-ever GA Emergency Response Group Meeting



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**

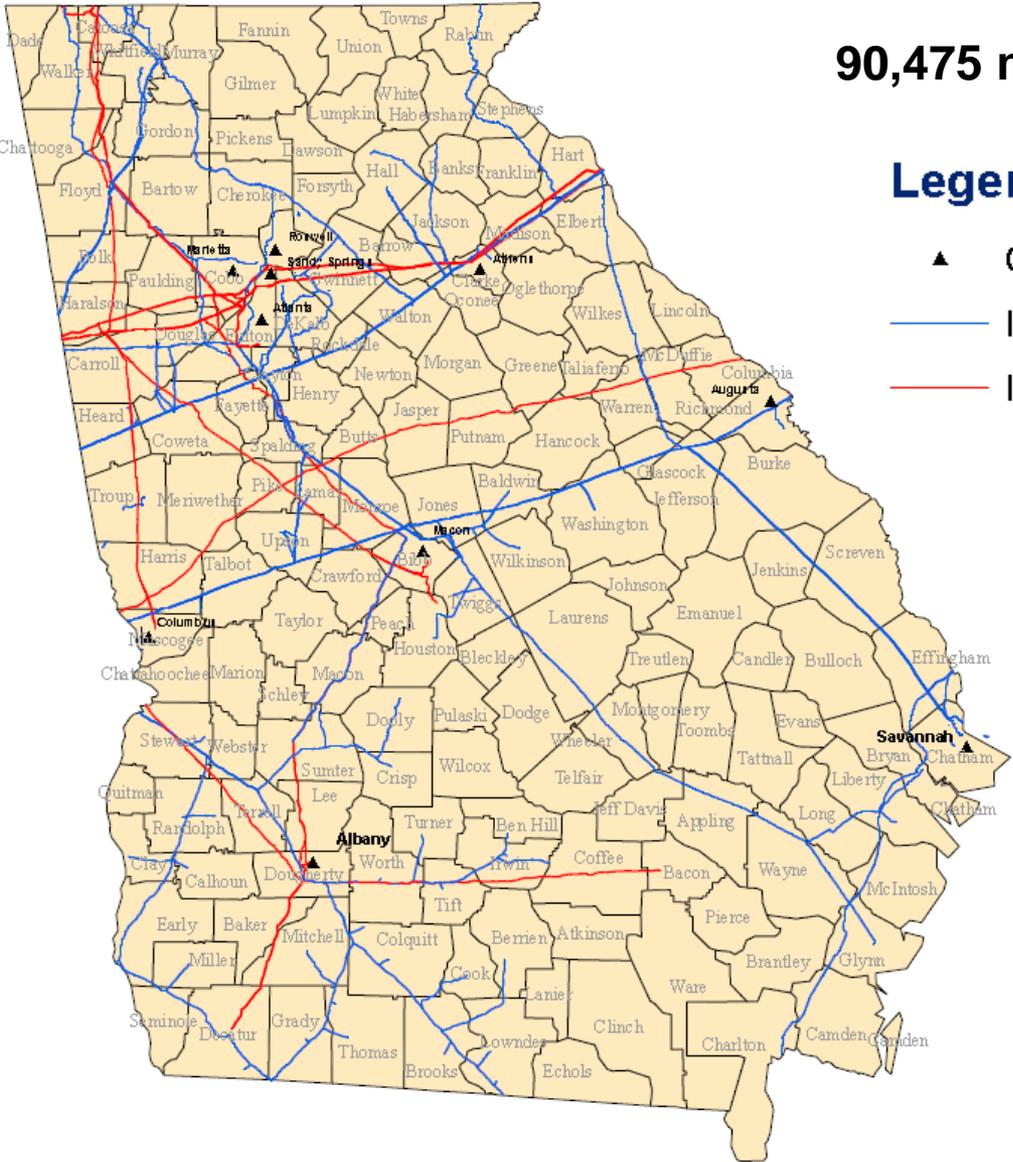


Pipelines in Georgia

90,475 miles of pipelines

Legend

- ▲ Cities >55,000 population
- Interstate Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline
- Interstate Hazardous Liquid Pipeline



Advantages to Starting in Georgia

- Georgia has a well-established and successful 811 call system
- Georgia has an active and effective state-level damage prevention program that meets all nine required elements
- Good mix of operators: hazardous liquid and natural gas; public and private natural gas local distribution companies (LDCs) in Georgia (92 total - <100 to 1.6M))
- PHMSA has a long-standing, positive working relationship with Georgia emergency responders and the GAPSC
- PHMSA's Southern Region, the Georgia PSC, and several of the operators and emergency responders are based in the metropolitan Atlanta area



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



Goals and Objectives of GPERI

- **Improve and sustain effective communication, emergency responders and pipeline industry**
- **Increase emergency responders' awareness of pipelines in Georgia**
- **Establish a baseline to evaluate pipeline emergency response preparedness**
- **Identify weaknesses in existing regulatory and emergency response programs and develop solutions**
- **Develop a sustainable comprehensive pipeline emergency response training program**



Tim Butters Addressing Georgia Fire Chiefs



GAPSC and PHMSA Regulators



PHMSA's Finest



Colonial Pipeline Display



Thomson, Georgia

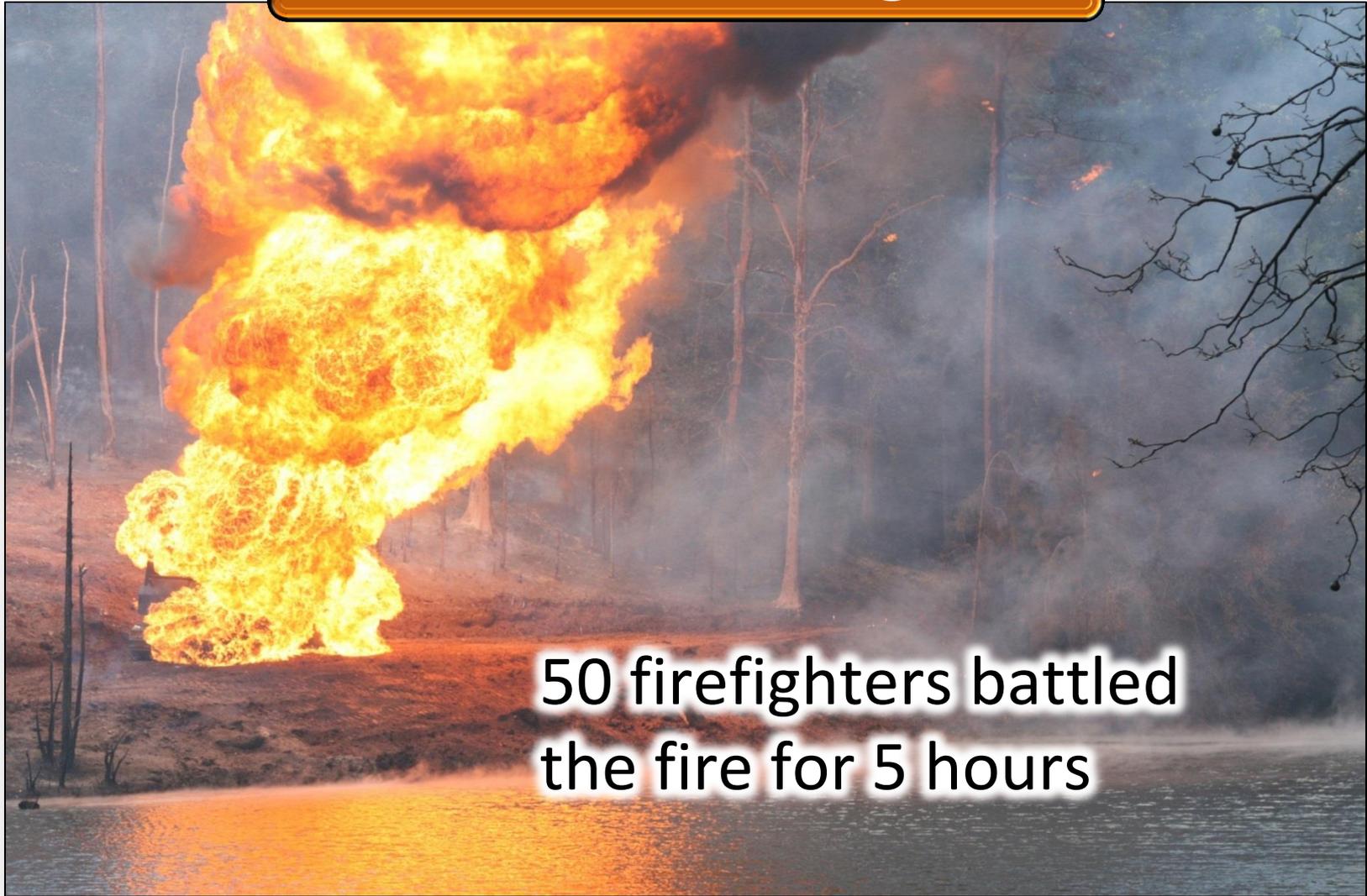


July 2010

- 8-inch liquid propane gas line was struck by a third-party in Thomas, GA
- Resulting explosion and fire
 - 1 death
 - 1 injury from frostbite burns



Thomson, Georgia



50 firefighters battled
the fire for 5 hours



Thomson, Georgia



Thomson, Georgia



20 acres of woodland burned



Thomson, Georgia

The McDuffie County Fire Department – a mostly volunteer agency – was the lead responder.

They had no formal training in responding to pipeline emergencies.



Operators – Are We Being Effective?

- **Pipeline Group Meetings have been an acceptable means to “educate” emergency responders**
 - **Following a series of pipeline incidents in 2010, our understanding of “acceptable” began to change**
- **In recent years, ER attendance at these meetings has declined**
 - **How do we get the responders attention?**
 - **Are the right people are sitting in the seats?**
 - **Is pipeline safety knowledge being retained?**



OUTSIDE-IN: A Flawed Approach

- Pipeline operators have been trying to “push” critical safety information to responders for years
- Approach did not address the responder’s reality
- Missed opportunities to ask:
 - What information do you need?
 - Who needs to receive the information?
 - Is there a difference in the level of information required by position/job duties?
 - What is the best way to ensure real knowledge transfer?



Challenges Identified by GPERI

- **Lack of sustainable pipeline safety training for GA emergency responders**
- **Low priority placed on pipeline emergencies training by most fire chiefs**
- **Less than optimal training delivery methods**
 - **Level of information did not meet knowledge needs of responders**
 - **Little or no relationship building with traditional meeting structure**
 - **Meeting attendance depended on responder availability**
 - **Limited flexibility to accommodate non-career responders**



Challenges Identified by GPERI

- **Poor knowledge & skills transfer throughout responder ranks**
- **Resource challenges for GA responders when an incident occurred**
 - **State law requires fire personnel to respond and remain on scene for all gas ruptures**
 - **Ties up responder resources, potentially impacting other responses**



GPRI: A Shared Approach

- **Accountability for pipeline emergency training is shared by relevant partners**
 - **Not just a pipeline operator’s “problem”; responders assume responsibility for training**
 - **Training delivered to ERs using methods, trainers and delivery systems that are already a part of responder experience**
 - **End of “One size Fits All” training; content adapted to meet information needs of various positions**
 - **Applicable knowledge integrated into other existing ER course content (e.g., Hazmat, NIMS, etc.)**



Shared Responsibility for Pipeline Safety



Why GPERI Works

**BECAUSE EVERYONE
BENEFITS**

28

28



For Operators.....



CREDIBILITY

Leverage established command and training structures provided by GAFC and GPSTC to conduct training



EFFECTIVENESS

Documentation - all courses require a post-test of knowledge comprehension



INSIDE OUT MARKETING

Fire Chiefs own the program and have the lead on promoting attendance



RELATIONSHIPS

Safety & business partners; improved liaison, understanding, & trust



For Responders.....



KNOWLEDGE

Improved understanding of pipeline operation, products, hazards, & emergency response improves safety



INFLUENCE OVER PROCESS

The right level of information, tailored to the right level, delivered to meet responders' needs



NEW FUNDING SOURCE

Operators provide a funding source for enhanced emergency training



RELATIONSHIPS

Safety & business partners; improved liaison, understanding, & trust



An Unanticipated Benefit

- **Active support from GA Fire Chiefs for preventing pipeline incidents**
- **Requested & now have a seat on GA Utilities Coordinating Council**
- **Emergency responders and other city and local officials (e.g. city planners, inspectors, etc.) may approach excavators to ask about one call tickets**



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



Ensuring Sustainability

Once program was developed, needed a way to ensure sustainability

- Who will be responsible for program decisions going forward?
- How will program funds be managed?
- How will program effectiveness be monitored?

**Establish the
GPERI Board**



GPERI 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)
- **3 Non-Voting Positions**
 - Director Georgia Fire Academy (or designee)
 - President of GA811 (or designee)
 - GPERI Program Manager



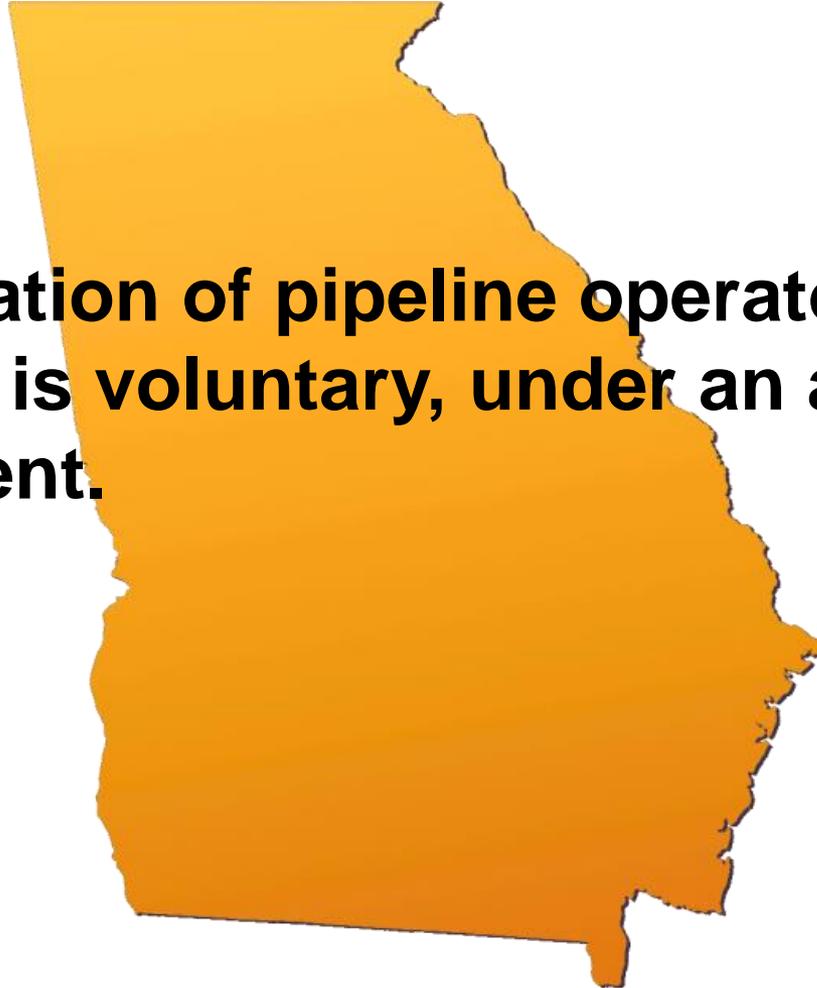
GPERI Charter

- **Board creates and submits an annual operating plan and proposed budget to the GAFC.**
- **GAFC approves or vetoes the annual operating budget, but may not substitute/amend**
- **Quorum requires 6 voting board members; minimum of 5 yes votes for any positive actions to be approved**
- **Changes to Board membership and/or program require unanimous approval.**



GPERI Participation

Participation of pipeline operators in Georgia is voluntary, under an annual agreement.





GA Pipeline Operators

Provide funding for training

- Appoint operator representatives to serve on GPERI Board
- Maintain liaisons/drill with FFs
- Monitor program effectiveness



GA Association of Fire Chiefs (GAFC)

- Promote pipeline safety training in GA
- Appoint responder representatives to serve on GPERI Board
- Direct GPERI Program Manager
- Manage program funding

GPERI Board

- Develop an annual operating plan and budget
- Ensure sustainability of responder pipeline training program
- Make recommendations for training content/program improvement
- Monitor program effectiveness

GPERI Training Program Manager



- Manage program rollout/implementation
- Internally market program to FFs
- Point person for exchange of information between Pipeline Operators, GPSTC, GAFC
- Serve as a non-voting member of GPERI Board



GPSTC
Georgia Public Safety Training Center

- Develop position-specific training modules
- Maintain program content current
- Present training/train trainers
- Maintain schedule & documentation
- Serve as a non-voting member of GPERI Board

Computer Disc Training (CDT)

4/8 HR Face to Face at Distant/Smaller FD

Train the Trainer 4/8 HR at FD

Web-Based Training (WBT)

16 HR Face to Face at GPSTC

GA Fire Departments



Initial GPSC/GAFC Funding

- **The Georgia Public Service Commission (GPSC), following a motion by Commissioner McDonald, provided the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs (GAFC) with \$100K to improve responder training for pipeline emergencies within the state.**
- **Moving forward with GPERI Board - funding from pipeline operators**



Ensuring Sustainable Funding



- For the program to be a long term solution, it must have a sustainable funding stream.
- Pipeline operators spend significant dollars today to meet regulatory requirements associated with liaison requirements and public education.

Let's Spend Them Smarter ...



GPERI Funding Structure

- **BASELINE FUNDING** provided by Georgia Pipeline Operators
 - Interstate Gas
 - Interstate Liquids
 - Local Distribution Companies (Investor owned)
 - Local Distribution Companies (Municipal owned)
- **50/50 Cost Allocation** between interstate pipeline operators & LDCs, assuming full participation by the major operators in each group.
- **Multi-tiered Structure** for allocation among interstate operators, tied to the number of Georgia counties in which their pipelines operate.



GPRI Funding Structure

- **Allocation among LDCs** is based on a multi-tiered structure tied to the number of service lines for the operator.
- **Funding beyond operator revenue** listed above can and should be pursued from other sources.
 - Funds from these sources should not be used to offset annual baseline operations revenues.
 - One time revenue streams should be used for one-time or short duration projects.



Training Challenges



- Training is **NOT** mandatory for any GA responder
- There are **159** counties
- There are **624** fire departments across the State
- There are **approximately 28,000** firefighters
- **Almost 14,000** are volunteer firefighters



Emergency Responder Training Goal

Train all 624 Georgia fire departments over a three-year period and develop appropriate intervals for recertification.

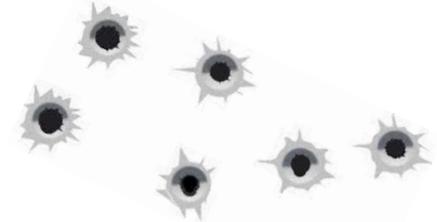


The Optimal Delivery Concept

Original Approach: Shotgun

- Train ALL firefighters with the full 16-hour “*Pipeline Emergencies*” training program
 - Teaching *everything* to *everybody*
 - Not necessary
 - Impractical in terms of time & expense

From This



Revised Approach: Rifle Shot

- Strategic division of PE course content into modules to address information needs by position/title
- Training based on “Need to Know”

To This



GPRI Approach to Training Responders

- **GA Pipeline operators partner with the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs (GAFC) to sponsor pipeline emergencies training for emergency responders**
 - **GAFC administers program**

- **Enlist the assistance of the GA Public Safety Training Center (Forsyth, GA) to design/train pipeline safety training**
 - **Use NASFM “*Pipeline Emergencies*” Course as basis for developing training modules**



Training Plan

- **Conduct Pre- and Post-Training Surveys to Evaluate Effectiveness**
 - Survey ERs within the state of GA to obtain a baseline on pipeline emergencies knowledge
 - Conduct post-training survey after a full year to measure knowledge improvement/retention



Range of Training Platforms

| Platform | Type | Responsibility |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Classroom at GPSTC | 16-hr course for trainer qualification, HAZMAT Teams, FFs w/ interest | GPSTC/GPSTC-Qualified Trainers at FDs |
| Classroom at Fire Departments | 4- 8- 16-hr module | GPSTC-Qualified Fire Department Training Officer |
| Classroom “in the field” | 4- 8- 16-hr module | GPSTC-Qualified trainers travel to FDs without training officer/distant from GPSTC |
| Online | Self-study or CD | Independent Study |
| Internet | Knowledge silos (e.g., web links, videos, photos, etc.) | Independent study |



GPRI Emphasis on Prevention

- **Response important, but prevention saves 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**



Proclamation – Safe Digging Month



811

**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

One easy call gets your utility lines marked and helps protect you from injury and expense.

Safe Digging is No Accident. Always Call 811 Before You Dig.
Visit www.call811.com for more information.

CGA

811

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CGA

Awareness to Action

- **Additional eyes and ears in community focused on potential damage situations**
- **GA Fire Service empowered to approach excavators at job site to ask for one-call tickets**
 - **May issue public safety violations**



Awareness to Action

Good morning. The pipeline marker sign near 7185 Peachtree Dunwoody Rd. in Sandy Springs is leaning over.



GPRI – Where are We Now?



- **Began teaching/testing modified “Pipeline Emergencies” course at GPSTC in March 2013**
- **52 responders qualifies to trainer level, 7 trainers working across state**
- **Approx. 600 responders trained to date**
- **Ongoing and dynamic exchange of information about pipelines and pipeline incidents**



GPRI in other States

- **Alabama – Initial meeting held at AL Fire College June 29th, 2015**
- **Steering Committee formed and first meeting held Nov. 9th, 2015**



- **South Carolina – Initial meeting held at SC Fire College Nov. 2nd, 2015**
- **Steering Committee formed**





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