

NEWS

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Alabama Public Service Commission Responds to Gas Pipeline Explosion in San Bruno, California

MONTGOMERY – In response to public inquiries, regarding the tragic gas pipeline explosion that occurred September 9, 2010 in San Bruno, California, the Alabama Public Service Commission offers the following general information regarding its Pipeline Safety Section.

The Alabama Public Service Commission wants to assure the residents of Alabama that its Gas Pipeline Safety investigators are continuously working to ensure the safety of the pipeline infrastructure within the state. The Commission's investigators perform numerous inspections of gas systems and hazardous liquid operators within the state each year. These inspections not only involve a review and verification of appropriate system documentation, but also field evaluations of corrosion protection, valve operations and construction practices - to name a few. Alabama's Gas Pipeline Safety Investigators have nearly 150 years of combined experience in pipeline inspections. The Commission's gas pipeline safety inspectors are required to be certified in areas specific to pipeline safety and continue to attend training classes as new regulations are introduced.

As stated by Michael Thompson, Chair of the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR – representing the state regulatory agencies), “... we want to assure the public that state pipeline safety inspectors have been deeply involved in ensuring that operators of natural gas distribution and intrastate transmission systems are complying with existing pipeline safety regulations, with increased emphasis being focused on compliance with the gas transmission pipeline integrity regulations since they became effective in 2004.”

Additional information on the Alabama Public Service Commission's Gas Pipeline Safety Section is available at www.psc.alabama.gov/