

# Useful PHMSA Links, Forms and Information

## 1. Gathering Pipelines Frequently Asked Questions

The site linked below contains PHMSA responses to frequently asked questions regarding the new gathering rule.

[https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/faqs/gathering-pipelines-faqs#QA\\_0](https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/faqs/gathering-pipelines-faqs#QA_0)

## 2. Operator Report forms and instructions

The site linked below contains links to forms and instructions to:

- Request a new operator identification number
- Complete and submit operator annual reports
- Complete and submit written incident reports

<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/forms/operator-reports-submitted-phmsa-forms-and-instructions>

## 3. Gas Pipeline Incident Definition and Reporting Requirements

Below are excerpts from the PHMSA 49 CFR Part 191 Regulations defining an incident on a natural gas pipeline and the related immediate and follow-up reporting requirements.

### Definition of a natural gas pipeline Incident under the PHMSA Regulations - 49 CFR Part 191.3?

*Incident* means any of the following events:

- (1) An event that involves a release of gas from a pipeline, gas from an underground natural gas storage facility (*UNGSF*), liquefied natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, refrigerant gas, or gas from an *LNG facility*, and that results in one or more of the following consequences:
  - (i) A death, or personal injury necessitating in-patient hospitalization;
  - (ii) Estimated property damage of \$129,300 or more, including loss to the operator and others, or both, but excluding the cost of gas lost. For adjustments for inflation observed in calendar year 2021 onwards, changes to the reporting threshold will be posted on PHMSA's website. These changes will be determined in accordance with the procedures in [appendix A](#) to part 191.
  - (iii) Unintentional estimated gas loss of three million cubic feet or more.
- (2) An event that results in an emergency shutdown of an LNG facility or a UNGSF. Activation of an emergency shutdown system for reasons other than an actual emergency within the facility does not constitute an incident.
- (3) An event that is significant in the judgment of the operator, even though it did not meet the criteria of paragraph (1) or (2) of this definition.

## Immediate Notification of Certain Incidents – 49 CFR Part 191.5

- (a) At the earliest practicable moment following discovery, but no later than one hour after *confirmed discovery*, each *operator* must give notice in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section of each *incident* as defined in § 191.3.
- (b) Each notice required by paragraph (a) of this section must be made to the National Response Center either by telephone to 800-424-8802 (in Washington, DC, 202 267-2675) or electronically at <http://www.nrc.uscg.mil> and must include the following information:
  - (1) Names of operator and *person* making report and their telephone numbers.
  - (2) The location of the incident.
  - (3) The time of the incident.
  - (4) The number of fatalities and personal injuries, if any.
  - (5) All other significant facts that are known by the operator that are relevant to the cause of the incident or extent of the damages.
- (c) Within 48 hours after the confirmed discovery of an incident, to the extent practicable, an operator must revise or confirm its initial telephonic notice required in paragraph (b) of this section with an estimate of the amount of product released, an estimate of the number of fatalities and injuries, and all other significant facts that are known by the operator that are relevant to the cause of the incident or extent of the damages. If there are no changes or revisions to the initial report, the operator must confirm the estimates in its initial report.

## Written Incident Reports – 49 CFR Part 191.7 Report submission requirements

- (a) General. Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (e) of this section, an *operator* must submit each report required by this part electronically to the *Pipeline* and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration at <http://portal.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline> unless an alternative reporting method is authorized in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section.
- (b) Exceptions: An operator is not required to submit a safety- related condition report (§ 191.25) electronically.
- (c) Safety-related conditions. An operator must submit concurrently to the applicable *State* agency a safety-related condition report required by § 191.23 for intrastate pipeline transportation or when the State agency acts as an agent of the Secretary with respect to interstate transmission facilities.
- (d) Alternative Reporting Method. If electronic reporting imposes an undue burden and hardship, an operator may submit a written request for an alternative reporting method to the Information Resources Manager, Office of Pipeline Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, PHP-20, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington DC 20590. The request must describe the undue burden and hardship. PHMSA will review the request and may authorize, in writing, an alternative reporting method. An authorization will state the period for which it is valid, which may be indefinite. An operator must contact PHMSA at 202-366-8075, or electronically to [informationresourcesmanager@dot.gov](mailto:informationresourcesmanager@dot.gov) or make arrangements for submitting a report that is due after a request for alternative reporting is submitted but before an authorization or denial is received.

## 4. New Gathering Rule

A link to the new gathering rule published in the federal register on November 15, 2021 (Docket No. PHMSA-2011-0023) is shown below:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document/PHMSA-2011-0023-0491>

Technical corrections to the final rule were published in the federal register on June 13, 2022. A link to the document providing the corrections published in the federal register is provided below:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document/PHMSA-2011-0023-0510>