

USDOT Announces New Edition of Pipeline Emergencies Training Program

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) announced the availability of Pipeline Emergencies – 2nd Edition, a new Internet-based training curriculum designed to educate first responders and pipeline safety personnel on how to safely respond to pipeline failures.

The new fully electronic version makes the material accessible to anyone online at <http://www.pipelineemergencies.com>. It also incorporates a training video, which was previously available only on DVD. The second edition also contains new information regarding ethanol and Hazardous Volatile Liquids. The first edition, which was only available in hard copy, has already helped train over 45,000 of the nation’s first responders on how to safely respond to emergency situations involving pipelines.

“First responders often put their lives on the line when they are called out for a pipeline emergency,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. “We need to provide them and pipeline safety personnel the best information we can give them.”

Through efforts with emergency response and pipeline industry experts, Pipeline Emergencies exemplifies how PHMSA is working to minimize pipeline-related safety risks and ensure pipeline companies continue to fully cooperate on safety issues.

“By continuing to offer these training tools at no cost, we can ensure even more first responders are trained properly on how to handle emergencies involving pipelines,” PHMSA Administrator Cynthia Quarterman said. “This updated edition is an important tool to help reach our safety goals.”

The free training program helps first responders and pipeline safety personnel broaden their understanding of liquid and natural gas pipeline operations through videos, interactive graphics, simulations and textbooks. The training program can also be customized to adapt to a variety of training situations and focuses on pipeline emergency response options, such as leaks, spills and fires. The curriculum is also available as an iPhone/iPad app and will soon be available on Droid.

The Pipeline Emergencies training curriculum is a result of a cooperative agreement between PHMSA and the National Association of State Fire Marshals. More information about the program materials is available online at www.pipelineemergencies.com.

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