



GPERI FACT SHEET

Improving Pipeline Safety by Improving Responder Awareness

WHAT IS GPERI?

GPERI is an acronym for the **Georgia Pipeline Emergency Response Initiative**. It is a public-private partnership among emergency responders and Georgia pipeline operators to improve pipeline safety in the State of Georgia.

GPERI MISSION:

Advance the ability of Georgia emergency responders to manage pipeline emergencies through improved training, cooperation, and communication with pipeline operators.

GPERI PROGRAM SCOPE:

Managed by the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs, GPERI provides sustainable, comprehensive training for emergency responders, based on the National State Fire Marshall's (NASFM) **Pipeline Emergencies** curriculum. This training, developed by NASFM and funded by the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Pipeline Hazardous Materials Administration (PHMSA), expands upon responder knowledge of hazardous materials to provide them with information critical to preventing and managing pipeline emergencies. The Georgia Public Safety Training Facility (GPSTC), the qualifying agency for all Georgia responders, has developed the following training modules to provide the **right training, at the right level** for each responder position:

- **Pipeline Emergencies: Commend Officers Strategies (PECOS)**
A four-hour training program for Chiefs Officers that emphasizes strategic awareness, planning, and unified command, using the National Incident Management System.
- **Pipeline Emergencies: Company Officer Tactics (PECOT) *coming soon!***
Intended for officers and their crews, this eight-hour module focuses on scene safety, initial incident command, incident assessment, notifications, and other tactical considerations.
- **Pipeline Emergencies: Dispatcher Awareness Training (PEDAT)**
A four-hour course designed for 911 call takers and dispatchers to improve information gathering and notification skills specific to pipeline emergencies. *coming soon!*
- **Pipeline Emergencies (PE)**
A comprehensive 16-hour class for trainers and those firefighters with a need to have a more in-depth understanding of pipeline emergencies curriculum.

GPERI is initially focused on fire departments, because these agencies are typically the lead responders for fires, rescues, explosions and hazardous materials emergencies. Going forward, GPERI plans to expand the program by developing training modules for other critical responders (i.e., law enforcement, emergency management, etc.), commensurate with their role in pipeline emergencies.

TRAINING DELIVERY

To meet the needs of responders, both career and volunteer, training is delivered in a variety of ways by GPSTC-qualified instructors:

- Classroom training at the GPSTC in Forsyth, Georgia
- Agency or regional training provided at local facilities by GAFC trainers
- In-house training provided by department training officers

TRAINING FREQUENCY

The goal is to provide training to all 624 GA emergency response agencies over a three-year period of time. Pipeline emergency training is not currently “required” in the Georgia firefighter curriculum. But, by shifting responsibility for training management and delivery to the GAFC, pipeline operators can take advantage of fire service organizational and command structures to promote attendance.

PARTNERSHIP COSTS

GPERI is funded by Georgia pipeline operators based on a 50/50 allocation of costs between interstate pipeline operators and LDCs. Costs for interstate operators are tied to the number of counties in which the operator has assets, while costs for LDCs are based on the number of operator service lines. Please call or email to inquire about specific costs for your company.

BENEFITS TO GEORGIA PIPELINE OPERATORS

Membership in GPERI provides pipeline operators with the following benefits in meeting public awareness compliance requirements:

- **Provides high-quality, position-specific pipeline training for emergency responders**
Historically, pipeline operators have attempted to meet responder outreach requirements through joint pipeline group meetings, which did not provide an adequate, actionable level of detail to meet responder needs. GPERI training was developed in concert with the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, as well as Federal and State regulatory agencies to ensure critical training requirements were addressed.
- **Promotes pipeline emergency prevention, not just emergency response**
The training stresses GA811 One Call requirements and what responders should look for at excavation sites to spot a potential incident in the making, This provides GA pipeline operators with additional “eyes and ears” in the community to prevent pipeline emergencies.
- **Supports regulatory inspection with documentation of training attendance and post-training evaluations of comprehension**
Attendance lists are maintained as proof of training attendance. Attendees are also asked to complete a post-training “survey” to evaluate their level of comprehension. This documentation is available to pipeline operators as evidence of responder outreach for state and federal inspections.

For more information or to become a GPERI Partner, contact:

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Or check us out on the web at: <http://www.gafc.org/projects.php>