

Responsibilities of Public Safety Officials

Public safety officials know to take whatever steps necessary to safeguard the public in the event of a pipeline emergency. The following suggestions are offered as a guide:

- **Contact the pipeline company immediately.** Pipeline marker signs show the pipeline company's name, emergency telephone number and pipeline contents.
- **Secure the area around the leak to a safe distance.** This could include the evacuation of people from homes, businesses, schools and other locations, as well as the erection of barricades to control access to the emergency site and similar precautions.
- **If the pipeline leak is not burning, take steps to prevent ignition.** This could include prohibiting smoking, rerouting traffic and shutting off the electricity and gas supply.
- **If the pipeline leak is burning, try to prevent the spread of fire, but do not attempt to extinguish it.** Burning petroleum products will not explode. If the fire is extinguished, gas or vapor will collect and could explode when reignited by secondary fires.