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| Description | To establish the procedure that will be followed to efficiently investigate pipeline incidents and failures. |
| Regulatory Applicability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulated Transmission Pipelines <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulated Gathering Pipelines (Type A) <input type="checkbox"/> Regulated Gathering Pipelines (Type B) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulated Distribution Pipelines |
| Frequency | As needed |
| Reference | 49 CFR 192.617 <i>Investigation of Failures</i> |
| Forms / Record Retention | F-191.1 <i>Incident Notification, Transmission Reporting and Investigation Packet / Life of Pipeline System</i> F-191.9 <i>Incident Notification, Distribution Reporting and Investigation Packet / Life of Pipeline System</i> |
| Related Specifications | West Texas Gas Operator Qualification Program |
| OQ Covered Task | None |



Procedure Steps

1. For Texas intrastate pipelines, a supervisory review of leak complaints must be completed and documented by 10:00 a.m. each day for calls received by Midnight on the previous day.
2. Secure the site and maintain it as undisturbed as possible.
3. Each accident and/or failure shall be investigated as soon as possible after the incident and that investigation will include interviews of witnesses, if any, to determine the following:
 - a) The cause of the accident or failure
 - b) The method by which it could have been prevented
 - c) What measures should be taken to prevent it from recurring
4. Excavate surrounding areas as needed. If appropriate, samples of the failed facility or equipment should be retained for examination or laboratory analysis. Each must be properly marked or tagged for identification.
5. Arrange for employee interviews.
6. Alcohol test each employee or contractor's employee whose performance may have contributed to the incident in accordance with the DOT Drug and Alcohol Plan. (This must be done within 2 hours of the incident.)
7. Drug test each employee or contractor's employee whose performance may have contributed to the incident in accordance with the DOT Drug and Alcohol Plan. (This must be done within 32 hours of the incident.)
8. Refer to the Operator Qualification Program for information on handling employee's whose performance of a covered task may have contributed to the incident.
9. Conduct on-site investigation using form F-191.1 for Transmission or F-191.9 for Distribution.
10. Arrange consultants to assist in the investigation.
11. Analyze field data, operating history, and lab results.
 - a) Study system pressures.
 - b) Study most recent leak surveys.
 - c) Study most recent patrols.
 - d) Check for construction activity in the area.
 - e) Other data pertinent to this accident/failure.
 - f) Check for extenuating damage along pipeline outside the initial damage zone.
12. Provide a lesson learned that includes but not limited to;
 - a) Operational changes or facility modifications.
 - b) personnel training and qualification programs
 - c) design
 - d) construction



- e) testing
 - f) maintenance and operations
 - g) emergency procedure manual and specifications
 - h) potential preventative and mitigative measures (HCA areas)
 - i) SCADA system performance
 - j) Emergency valves or rupture mitigation valve locations and valve actuation (response time)
 - k) Any additional factors to prevent or minimize future incidents
13. For incidents that include rupture mitigation valves (RMV) or alternative equivalent technology that is part of a Transmission pipeline or Type A gathering; a summary of an incident review must be completed within 90 days of the incident. During the completion of the incident review, quarterly a status review must be completed until the investigation is complete and a final summary is prepared. These documents must be reviewed, dated, and signed by the appropriate senior manager. All data collected, including witness interviews and samples, regarding the accident/failure will be fully documented and kept for as long as the facility in question is in service. For Type B, C, R gathering and distribution, RMV's or alternative equivalent technology are not required thus these investigation requirements are not applicable.
14. If there is third party damage, complete form PS-89 on the TRRC website.