

CAL FIRE

OSFM Pipeline Safety



The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Pipeline Safety Division (PSD) is responsible for safety regulatory and enforcement authority over intrastate hazardous liquid pipelines. These are pipelines that are located entirely within California, including offshore State waters. The OSFM currently regulates the safety of over 5,000 miles of intrastate hazardous liquid pipeline through the certification from the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). PSD consists of engineers, analytical staff, geographical information system/mapping staff, and clerical support located in northern, central, and southern California.

OSFM engineers inspect pipeline operators to ensure compliance with federal and state pipeline safety laws and regulations. In addition, the PSD also:

- Provides technical assistance to any local governmental agency (fire, police, etc.) on matters relating to hazardous liquid or carbon dioxide pipeline safety issues.
- Investigates releases of hazardous liquid pipelines or incidents relating to jurisdictional pipeline facilities. Probable cause of the incident is determined, and action taken to minimize reoccurrence. Civil penalties are issued where appropriate.
- Educates pipeline operators and the public to promote pipeline safety.
- Conducts periodic pipeline safety seminars/training for firefighters, emergency response personnel, state and local agencies, and the pipeline industry.
- Reviews applications by hydrostatic pressure testing firms or persons who are qualified to certify results of hydrostatic tests and maintains a list of approved testers. The PSD also maintains a guideline for conducting hydrostatic tests and has direct oversight and evaluation of approved hydrotest firms by field evaluation and training.

