

## Advisory Bulletin

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**CFR Reference(s):** 191.25; 192.613; 192.612; 195.55; 195.401; 195.413

**Keyword(s):** Hurricane, Andrew

**Subject:**

Potential damage to Pipelines by Hurricane Andrew



US Department of Transportation  
Research and Special Programs Administration

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## **PIPELINE SAFETY ADVISORY BULLETIN**

**Advisory Bulletin: ADB-92-01**

**Date: 08/23/92**

**To:** Owners or Operators of Gas and Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Facilities in the Gulf of Mexico and Its Inlets

**Subject:** Potential Damage to Pipelines by Hurricane Andrew

**Purpose:**

Inform Pipeline Owners and Operators of the Need to Assess the Safety of Facilities Affected by Hurricane Andrew

**Advisory:**

During the week of August 23, 1992, Hurricane Andrew removed essential cover or inflicted harmful damage to some pipeline facilities in State and Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico and its inlets. Accordingly, the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) is advising that action should be taken to assess the safety of pipelines affected by the hurricane and restore any unsafe facilities to a safe condition. Failure to identify and repair damaged pipelines could pose a threat to human safety or the environment.

**Background:**

RSPA regulations, 49 CFR 192.613 for gas pipelines and 49 CFR 195.401 for hazardous liquid pipelines, require all operators to correct damage that could affect the safe operation of a pipeline (such as damage that may have been caused by Hurricane Andrew). If a gas line is determined to be in unsatisfactory condition and no immediate hazard exists, the operator must recondition or phase out the segment involved, or reduce the maximum allowable operating pressure. For hazardous liquid lines, if the condition presents an immediate hazard to persons or property, the operator may not operate the affected part of the system until the unsafe condition is corrected. In summary, if an operator has reason to believe that Hurricane Andrew adversely affected the safe operation of a pipeline, the operator must take corrective action.

In addition, attention is directed to RSPA reporting requirements (Part 191 and Subpart B of Part 195) and State requirements that operators submit telephonic and written reports when gas or hazardous liquid is released resulting in an incident or accident. Also, RSPA regulations require

operators to submit reports of safety related conditions involving pipelines (Sections 191.25 and 195.55).

Offshore pipeline operators are reminded of RSPA's requirements for underwater inspection and burial of pipelines in the Gulf of Mexico and its inlets (Sections 192.612 and 195.413). Operators of pipelines in water depths of 15 feet or less must conduct an underwater inspection before November 16, 1992. Upon discovery of a pipeline that is exposed on the seabed or constitutes a hazard to navigation, the operator must notify the National Response Center (1-800-424-8802) within 24 hours, mark the pipeline within 7 days, and rebury the pipeline to a depth of 36 inches within 6 months. Operators must report the results of these underwater inspections to RSPA within 60 days after all inspections are completed. To date, only 25 inspection reports have been received.

This bulletin does not affect the obligation of any operator to comply with regulations of any State or Federal agency other than RSPA.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 20, 1992.

**George W. Tenley, Jr., Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety**