

## Alert Notice

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**Alert Notice #:** ALN-91-04    **File Code:** ALN

**Date:** 11/20/91  
**CFR Reference(s):** 195.402(e)(7); 195.440  
**Keyword(s):** Pub\_Ed, NTSB

**Subject:**  
NTSB Recommendations S P-91-3/P-91-4, 03/15/90 NY leak/explosion: Requiring operators to extend their public education/emergency preparedness programs.



US Department of Transportation  
Research and Special Programs Administration

400 Seventh Street, SW.  
Washington, DC 20590

## **PIPELINE SAFETY ALERT NOTICE**

**Alert Notice: ALN-91-04**

**Date: 11/20/91**

**To:** Each Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Facility Owner/Operator & Every State Pipeline Safety Representatives

**Subject:**

**Purpose:**

NTSB recently issued recommendations P-91-3 and P-91-4 related to a March 15, 1990, leak and explosion in New York State. Recommendation P-91-3 states:

**Notice:**

**Background:**

NTSB recently issued recommendations P-91-3 and P-91-4 related to a March 15, 1990, leak and explosion in New York State. Recommendation P-91-3 states:

Require operators of pipelines that transport highly volatile liquids to extend their public education program to include persons who reside at elevations lower than and within 1 mile of the pipeline.

In the accident related to this NTSB recommendation, a highly volatile liquid pipeline ruptured and the vapor cloud traveled down slope approximately 1/2 mile into a community before it ignited. The explosion and ensuing fire resulted in 2 fatalities, 2 serious injuries, and 14 houses destroyed. This demonstrates the need to consider both elevation and distance from the pipeline in public education programs.

Current regulations in Section 195.440 require operators to establish continuing education program to enable the public, appropriate government organizations, and persons engaged in excavation-related activities to recognize and report a hazardous liquid pipeline emergency to the operator, fire department, police, or other appropriate public officials. Operators of highly

volatile liquid pipelines are urged to include in their public education programs those persons who reside at elevations lower than and within 1 mile of the pipeline.

Recommendation P-91-4 states:

Require pipeline operators to extend their emergency preparedness programs to include liaison with all community response agencies adjacent to their pipelines.

Current regulations in Section 195.402(e)(7) require operators to develop and follow procedures notifying the fire department, police, and other appropriate public officials of hazardous liquid pipeline emergencies, and to coordinate preplanned and actual responses with them during an emergency, including additional precautions necessary for an emergency involving a pipeline system transporting a highly volatile liquid.

Operators are reminded of the need to include liaison with all response agencies along the entire length of their pipelines as part of their emergency preparedness programs. Operators should review their public education programs and emergency response liaison and planning to ensure that all appropriate persons and response agencies are included.

**George W. Tenley, Jr., Associate Administrator, Office of Pipeline Safety**