



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

July 8, 2016

Dear Emergency Response Stakeholders,

Strong and effective communication between emergency responders and pipeline operators is an important aspect of pipeline safety. In 2012, a diverse group of pipeline operators, emergency responders, state 811 personnel, and state and federal regulators, with the support of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), came together and created the Pipeline Emergency Responders Initiative (PERI) in the state of Georgia. This groundbreaking initiative was conceived as a way to enhance communications among emergency responders, pipeline operators, and regulators. It has done that and more.

Commencing in 2014, this public-private partnership among emergency response organizations and pipeline operators is a two-way collaboration, strengthened by the development and implementation of comprehensive pipeline emergency response training. The result of each state initiative is a significant impact on the understanding of pipeline hazards in the emergency responder community.

The success of this initiative has led to the duplication of this effort in several other states. Each state initiative strengthens relationships among the various pipeline safety stakeholders and provides a better understanding of the stakeholders' shared responsibilities to help prevent and properly respond to pipeline incidents.

PHMSA supports the PERI initiative and recognizes that each state is unique and has its own set of challenges in protecting the public and the environment from the risks associated with transporting hazardous materials in pipelines. We are highly encouraged by the success of this initiative and progress being made on similar, yet distinctive programs in other states.

Improving communication between emergency responders and pipeline operators nationwide is a goal worth pursuing and we encourage other states to develop similar initiatives tailored to their needs. To learn more about these initiatives, please visit [www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/safety-awareness-and-outreach/PERI](http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/safety-awareness-and-outreach/PERI).

Sincerely,

Marie Therese Dominguez