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PHMSA's New Gas Distribution Incident Reporting Form

Reducing the "Other" Cause Category



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Three Primary Ways to Reduce the Number of Incidents reported to PHMSA as “Other”

1. 22 new sub-cause categories have been created
2. The single, large “Other” cause category is now sub-divided across five new “Other” categories, each within a specific cause type
3. Proper selection of a cause category by the Operator will always be a factor



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22 New or Revised Cause Categories Created

- 1 more under “Natural Force Damage”
- 5 more under “Other Outside Force Damage”
- 2 more under “Excavation Damage”
- 5 more under “Pipe, Weld, or Joint Failure”
- 3 more under “Equipment Failure”
- 6 more under “Incorrect Operation”



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The Single, Large “Other” is Now Sub-divided

- **There are new, smaller “Other” categories:**
 - Other Natural Force Damage
 - Other Outside Force Damage
 - Other Pipe, Weld, or Joint Failure
 - Other Equipment Failure
 - Other Incorrect Operation



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Proper Selection of a Cause Category by the Operator

- Recent review of “Other” accidents revealed that ~70% of “Other” accidents should have been attributed to a specific cause.
- Most were related to outside force damage and would have been captured under the new, smaller “Other” category [Other Outside Force Damage] .



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Examples – New Cause Categories

- Current from downed power line arced onto steel main
 - Old → *F7-OTHER*
 - New → *G4-OTHER OUTSIDE FORCE DAMAGE – Electrical Arcing from Other Equipment or Facility*

- Fitting for insert to the “Sav-a-Valve” not installed correctly
 - Old → *F7-OTHER*
 - New → *G7-INCORRECT OPERATION – Equipment Not Installed Properly*



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Examples – New Cause Categories (cont)

- 60 pounds of pressure inadvertently introduced into a two pound system
Old → *F7-OTHER*
New → *G7- INCORRECT OPERATION – Pipeline or Equipment Overpressured*
- Brazed connection between copper service & brass nipple attached to service tee broke
Old → *F7-OTHER*
New → *G6-EQUIPMENT FAILURE – Non-threaded Connection Failure*



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Examples – Smaller “Other” Categories

- Decaying tree falls on aboveground valve
Old → *F7-OTHER*
New → *G2-NATURAL FORCE DAMAGE – Other
Natural Force Damage*
- Powered pipe cleaning tool breaks through
commercial piping, striking pipeline and causing
leak
Old → *F7-OTHER*
New → *G4-OTHER OUTSIDE FORCE DAMAGE –
Other Outside Force Damage*



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Examples – Smaller “Other” Categories (cont)

- Weld fitting failure
 - Old → *F7-OTHER*
 - New → *G6-EQUIPMENT FAILURE – Other Equipment Failure*

- Gopher chewed on PE 1/2” service line
 - Old → *F7-OTHER*
 - New → *G4-OTHER OUTSIDE FORCE DAMAGE – Other Outside Force Damage*



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Examples – Proper Operator Selection

- Suppliers metering/regulating equipment malfunctioned
 - Wrong → *F7-OTHER*
 - Should have been → *F6-EQUIPMENT or OPERATIONS – Malfunction of Control/Relief Equipment [only 4 options to specify: Valve, Instrumentation, Pressure Regulator, and Other]*
 - New → *G6-EQUIPMENT FAILURE – Malfunction of Control/Relief Equipment [expanded with 11 options to specify: Control Valve, Relief Valve, Block Valve, Check Valve, Instrumentation, Pressure Regulator, SCADA, Communications, Power Failure, Stopp/Control Fitting, and Other]*