Pipeline operators are continually seeking insights to improve their ability to prepare for and respond to incidents. In 2018 the API/AOPL Emergency Response Work group collaborated to identify and discuss lesson learned from Training Events, Exercises, Round Table Discussions, ER Events and Conferences. Through their efforts, information was collected to commission the first annual lessons learned summary, with the intention of developing industry-wide best practices for emergency planning and response.
Training & Exercise Summary

“I thought the training was very well-presented and professionally done. I appreciated [The Instructor] has clearly thought a lot about the overall environmental impact of oil-spill response activities, and how to do the best possible job while causing the least additional damage to the environment.”

In 2018 the API/AOPL Emergency Response Work Group shared Training and Exercises opportunities with participating members to increase emergency preparedness capabilities. Attendance exceeded expectations by 100%. The types of training and exercises attended by our group included:

- Cold Weather Emergency Response
- Inland Swift Water Response and Survival
- Government Led Functional Exercises

Value in Attending Training & Exercise

- All participating organizations found value in attending each others training and exercises.
- Multiple respondents in our surveys are taking lessons learned back to their organizations and applying them to their programs.
Pipeline operators are committed to safe and environmentally responsible operations to protect the health and safety of their employees, contractors and communities. The Emergency Response Workgroup hosted a series of conversations aimed at increasing their ability to respond to emergencies by learning from one another.

**Hurricane Harvey**
- Companies have active hurricane plans that increased readiness to respond to the emergency
- Employee assistance was identified as a best practice
- The ability to use UAVs for damage assessment and ROW surveys were invaluable

**Incident Command System**
- All Pipeline Companies who participated are committed to using NIMS ICS and see its value
- ICS 100 and 200 is a minimum training standard used by most pipeline operators

**Above Ground Tank Fires**
- Tank Tactical Response Plans include water, foam, hose and application needs for the largest credible scenarios
- Foam stocks are maintained on site at most facilities
- Response planning varies
In an effort to improve response capabilities, the Work Group discussed several types of events, including:

- Gasoline Spill/Pipeline Release in a populated area
- Valve failure
- NGL Fire
- Storage Tank Fire
- Hurricane Response

Identification of Good Practices

- Opportunities to improve response plans
- Identified opportunities to provide industry-wide guidance
- Response-specific tactics for fire fighting
- Emerging technologies
Industry is committed to ensuring our response partners are prepared in the event of a release, and we regularly engage with first responders. In 2018, we partnered with the Continuing Challenge workshop in Sacramento, CA.

**Sponsorship**

We sponsored 80 attendees for the Continuing Challenge workshop.

**Courses Sponsored at Workshop**

1. Pipeline Release Awareness
2. Tank Fire Preparedness – off-site at local tank-farm
3. Lessons Learned from Previous Events – taught by first responders who responded to these events
4. Interactive Oil-Spill Tabletop Exercise
5. Security Threats to Pipelines – taught by FBI

**Free Online Training for First-Responders**

The NASFM API/AOPL-sponsored training portal trained 1,696 first responders in 2018. Please visit https://nasfm-training.org/pipeline/ to access this free resource.