

SMS PROVES ITSELF DURING COVID-19



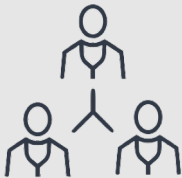
Pipeline Operator Actions Reflect RP 1173 Elements

A pipeline safety management system (SMS) provides a structured framework for knowing and continually improving safety performance. The foundational elements of a pipeline SMS, reflected in API RP 1173, are proving themselves during COVID-19 as they reflect key actions pipeline operators are taking to continue operating and do so safely.



Leadership & Management Commitment

Leaders of pipeline operators are demonstrating their commitment to action by activating incident command structures, serving on crisis management teams, and providing frequent communication to employees to ensure their safety and support business continuity.



Stakeholder Engagement

Pipeline operators are communicating with their customers and the public on their commitment to continued safe delivery of energy. Operators are proactively reaching out to their federal and state regulators, providing daily communication with employees, and are in regular contact with vendors and emergency response contractors.



Operational Controls

Pipeline operators have developed COVID-related procedures to ensure that personnel, including vital control room workers, have the planning, support resources and technology they need to perform their roles and to minimize exposure to the virus. Examples include utilizing backup control locations, alternating between locations and deep cleaning during alternate shifts. Using Management of Change processes and procedures has continued to ensure safe operations during these times of rapid change.



Incident Investigation, Evaluation & Lessons Learned

Pipeline operators are regularly joining together as an industry to share their experiences and provide lessons learned to their peers. Sharing examples include strategies to split shift and sequester vital personnel, obtain personal protective equipment for their employees, and safely begin the return to workplace.



Documentation & Recordkeeping

Pipeline operators are documenting the actions they are taking to continue operating and doing so safely while in some cases deviating from normal procedures. Employees have the ability to access information and databases while working remotely.