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**PIPELINE OPERATORS LAUNCH FREE PIPELINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The American Petroleum Institute (API) and the Association of Oil Pipe Lines (AOPL), together with supporting emergency response organizations, have launched the First Responder Online Pipeline Emergency Response Training Program to provide free, pipeline specific emergency response training to first responders.

Based on the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) “Pipeline Emergencies” Program, the online training portal now is accessible free of charge to first responders at [nasfm-training.org/pipeline](http://www.Nasfm-training.org/pipeline).

The online training teaches first responders how to support the safety of response personnel and surrounding communities during a pipeline incident, secure the site and identify the risks involved, notify the pipeline operator of an incident and establish a command post as additional response organizations and equipment arrives.

Many rural or small departments use volunteers with limited schedules or need financial assistance to obtain specialized training. First responder organizations of all sizes can benefit from pipeline-specific emergency response training. The training website, funded by liquids pipeline operators, seeks to meet the needs of local first responders for pipeline-specific training that is affordable and convenient.

“While pipeline incidents are rare, this new pipeline training will help local first responders gain the training they need to keep their communities safe,” said John Stoody, AOPL vice president, government and public relations.

In the first months of trial operation, first responders in all 50 states have taken the online pipeline emergency response training course. The site is also available to first responders in Canada with responders from six provinces already completing the online pipeline training.

First responders are welcoming the new pipeline specific training. “This online portal provides valuable information for local first responders responding to pipeline incidents,” said Phil Oakes, National Association of State Fire Marshals national program director. “The more industry and first responders can come together to understand the techniques and skills needed for a pipeline emergency, the more effective we will be in responding to pipeline incidents.”

For additional information about the training portal or the many other API/APOL initiatives, contact Ray Bradley at bradleyr@api.org or John Stoody at jstoody@aopl.org. To participate in the online program, visit nasfm-training.org/pipeline.

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**About API/AOPL ERT**

API is the only national trade association that represents all aspects of America’s oil and natural gas industry. AOPL represents liquid pipeline owners and operators transporting crude oil, petroleum products like gasoline, diesel and jet fuel, and industrial products like propane and ethane. API and AOPL, together with supporting emergency response organizations, implement strategies to enhance liquids pipeline emergency communications, planning, preparedness and response.