



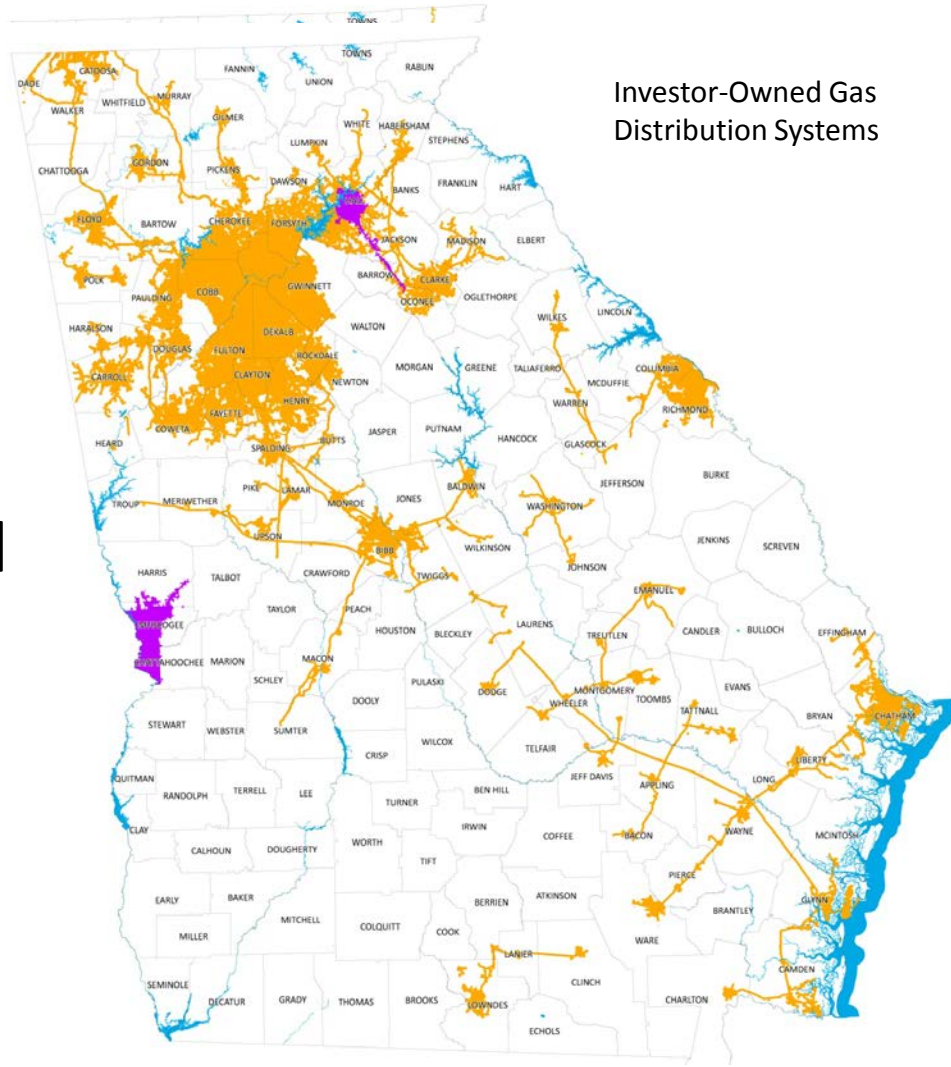
# Georgia Emergency Response Group

A private-public partnership to improve  
pipeline safety in the State of Georgia

Dona Harrington-Burns  
PHMSA Public Awareness Workshop  
June 19, 2013

# Pipelines in Georgia

- Over 89,000 miles of pipeline in Georgia:
  - Interstate Natural Gas Transmission Lines: **4,561 miles**
  - Interstate Hazardous Liquid Transmission Lines: **2,124 miles**
  - Intrastate Natural Gas Distribution Systems: **82,808 miles**





# Drivers for Change

Firefighters squeezing off gas lines when ruptured ; Need to change behaviors

**JULY 2010** Meeting of GAPSC, GA Association of Fire Chiefs: No firefighter involvement on the issues affecting them

Increased industry focus on effectiveness of ER training & liaison

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

**MARCH, 2008**

GA Public Service Commission issues Final Rule: County-wide Gas Safety Plans to reduce confusion/duplication of efforts

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2010**

San Bruno: “What pipeline?”  
Are GA firefighters adequately informed?

**MAY 15, 2012**

First-ever GA Emergency Response Group Meeting



# Georgia Emergency Response Group Kick-Off

---

- May 15, 2012: Brought together pipeline emergency response stakeholders to discuss ways to improve pipeline safety
  - State and federal regulators
  - Pipeline operators
  - Emergency Responders: fire, police
- Discussed gaps, needs, concerns and capabilities that could be leveraged to improve response
- Formed a Steering Team charged with developing a comprehensive program for educating GA first responders on ways to prevent, prepare for and respond to pipeline emergencies.





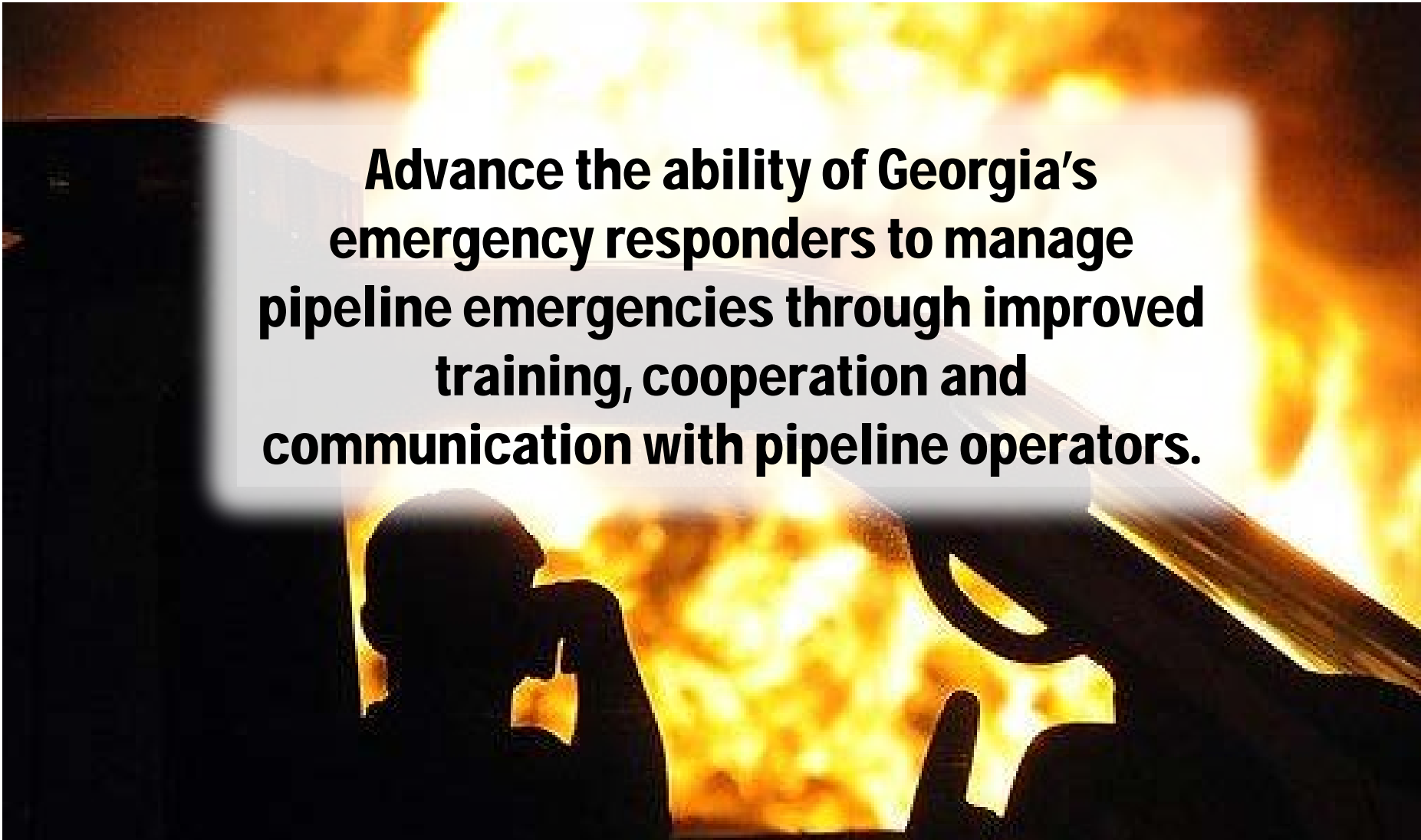
**Support from Tim Butters,  
PHMSA Deputy  
Administrator**

# GA Emergency Response Steering Team

	Name	Company	Representing
<b>RESPONDERS</b>	Chief David Wall	GA Public Safety Training Center	GA State Fire & Police Training
	Chief Jackie Gibbs	Marietta Fire Dept.	GA City Fire Department
	Chief Jack McElfish	Sandy Springs Fire Dept.	GA City Fire Department
	Inspector Doug Brown	Sandy Springs Fire Dept.	GA City Fire Department
<b>PIPELINE OPERATORS</b>	Gentry Wade	City of Buford	Natural Gas Local Distribution Company (Municipal)
	Rick Lonn	AGL Resources	Natural Gas Local Distribution Company
	Jacob Zillak	AGL Resources	Natural Gas Local Distribution Company
	Dona Harrington-Burns	Colonial Pipeline	Refined Liquids Pipeline
	Richard Calmes	Dixie Pipeline	Highly Volatile Liquids Pipeline
	Gregg Hammond	Williams Pipeline/Transco	Interstate Natural Gas Pipeline
	Larry Hjalmarson	Williams Pipeline/Transco	Interstate Natural Gas Pipeline (retired)
<b>REGULATORS</b>	Michael Khayata	PHMSA	US DOT Pipeline/Hazardous Material Enforcement
	Arthur Buff	PHMSA	US DOT Pipeline/Hazardous Material Enforcement
	Jason Allen	Office of State Fire Marshal	GA State Hazardous Materials Enforcement
	Jeff Baggett	GA Public Service Commission	GA Pipeline Safety Enforcement
	Chris Swan	GA Public Service Commission	GA Pipeline Safety Enforcement



# Mission Statement



Advance the ability of Georgia's emergency responders to manage pipeline emergencies through improved training, cooperation and communication with pipeline operators.



# A New Approach to Training Responders

- Enlist the assistance of the **GA Public Safety Training Center** to provide pipeline safety training for Georgia responders
  - Use NASFM *Pipeline Emergencies* Course as basis for training
- Establish a stratified approach based on an individual responder's knowledge needs, rank and responsibility
  - **4 hr. orientation** – for City/County Managers, elected officials
  - **8 hr. course** – for law enforcement, EMS, emergency managers
  - **16 hr. course** - for fire chiefs, command officers, company officers, firefighters, dispatchers





# A New Approach to Training Responders

- Planned training delivery methods:
  - Direct Classroom
    - At GA Public Safety Training Center campus
    - Classroom-in-the-field with VFDs
  - Train the Trainer for larger fire departments
  - Online for on-demand training
- Goal is to train all 630 Georgia fire departments over a three-year period and develop appropriate intervals for recertification.





# Progress to Date

- Reviewed/revised Pipeline Emergencies Course: 16-hour course
  - Course has been previewed with firefighters at GPSTC twice over the past few months
- Developing a white paper to describe program model (assumptions, baseline, benefits, evaluation, maintenance, final program format)
- Preparing a “business plan” and a funding model to permit GA pipeline operators to fund pipeline safety training through the GPSTC and sustain the program going forward



# Partnership Has Its Rewards

- GA Fire Chiefs are actively promoting the program within their ranks
  - Appointed a Program Manager (former Chief and Inspector) to be the point person for marketing, managing, and maintaining the program
  - Pipeline Operators played a significant role in recent GA Fire Chiefs conference



# Partnership Has Its Rewards

## ■ PREVENTION TRUMPS RESPONSE

- Active support from GA Fire Chiefs for preventing pipeline incidents (*prevent the incident you would have otherwise had to respond to*)
  - Sporting 811 magnets on city trucks
  - Looking at requiring city zoning & planning to link permit issuance to evidence of one call
  - Discussed using firefighters as extra “eyes” in the community; authority to approach excavators to ask about one call tickets
  - Active support for ROW Watch Program in local communities

Authority to question diggers



Know what's below.  
**Call before you dig.**





Questions?