



Pipeline Emergency Responders Initiative

What is the PERI?

The Pipeline Emergency Responders Initiative (PERI) is a program intended to enhance communications and strengthen relationships among emergency responders, pipeline operators and regulators.

Why is the PERI needed?

The PERI is needed to bring about a better understanding of stakeholders' shared responsibilities to help prevent and properly respond to pipeline incidents. It can spur the development and implementation of enhanced pipeline emergency response training and ensure that information pipeline operators provide to emergency responders to meet regulatory requirements are consistent, while not being duplicative.

How did the PERI begin?

Beginning in 2012, a diverse group of pipeline operators and firefighters, along with state and federal regulators, came together to create the first PERI in Georgia.

Who is involved?

PERI participation is open to any stakeholder group interested in having a seat at the table in the interest of protecting people and the environment from the risks inherent in transporting hazardous material through pipelines. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline Hazardous Materials and Safety Administration (PHMSA) initially works with stakeholders to invite as many potentially interested parties as possible to an information meeting about the PERI program. A PERI steering committee is subsequently formed to develop a PERI program within the state, while working to maximize and sustain stakeholder involvement.

How does PERI operate in other states?

Generally, this program is run through the State Fire Chiefs Association and training is facilitated by retired fire service personnel. The program is funded by pipeline operators in the state – gas utilities, interstate pipelines, etc.

How the PERI operates in Illinois

In January 2022, Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Educational and Research Foundation passed a resolution and set forth by-laws for a new IPERI Committee to function under the Foundation. The Foundation's corporate purposes are training and education based, thus this pipeline response education and training program fits squarely within the Foundation's corporate purposes.