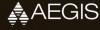
## **Overview of Incident Investigation**

David G. Zak Senior Natural Gas Industry Trainer June 04, 2020



## **Durham, NC – April 10, 2019**









# **A**ssociated

**E**lectric

<u>G</u>as

Insurance

# Services, Inc.

- Mutual Insurance Company
- Created by the Natural Gas Industry in the mid 1970s
- Risk Management

1<sup>st</sup> Layer of Insurance - \$35,000,000



## **AEGIS Loss Control**

#### **Risk Assessment**

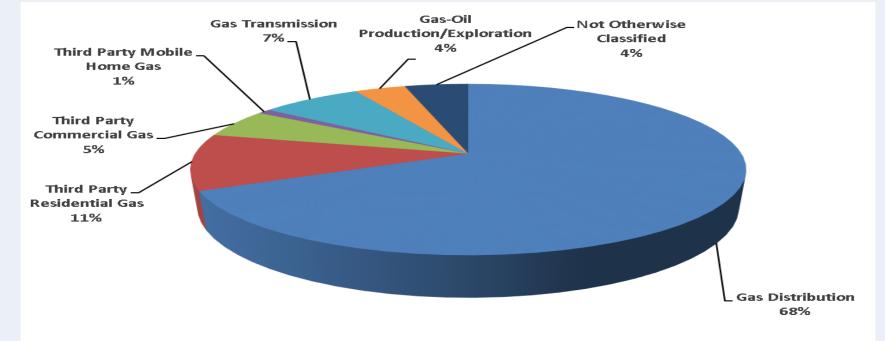
- Mitigation of Risk
- Comprehensive Review
- Identify Model Practices
  - Evacuation 1% Gas in Air
  - Odorization Documentation

#### **Gas Operator Training/Workshops**

- Variety of Training Programs
- Review of Major Liability Loss (RMLL)
- Reinforce Training & Qualification
  - Videos Lessons Learned Series

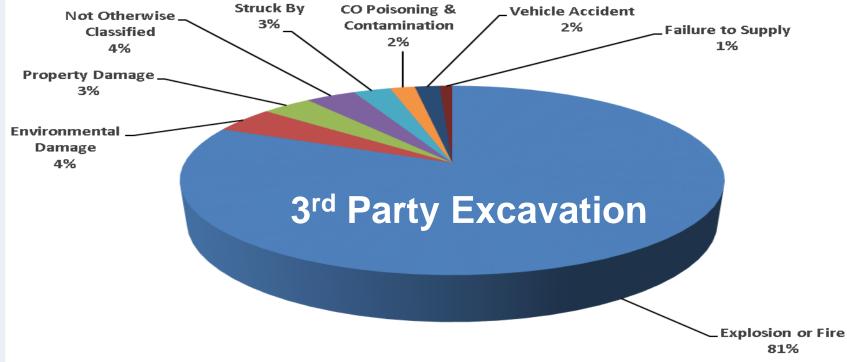


#### Distribution by System Type



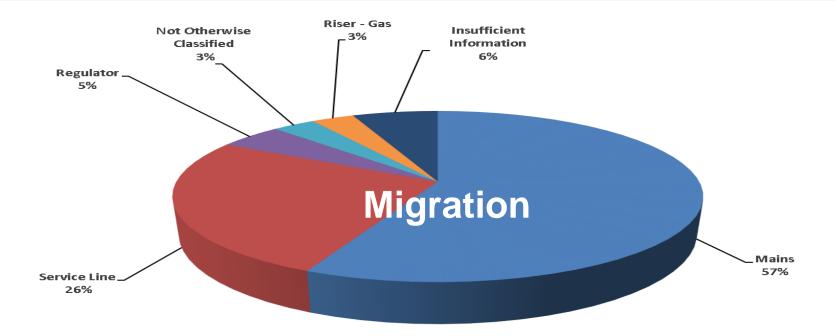


#### Distribution System – All Loss Types



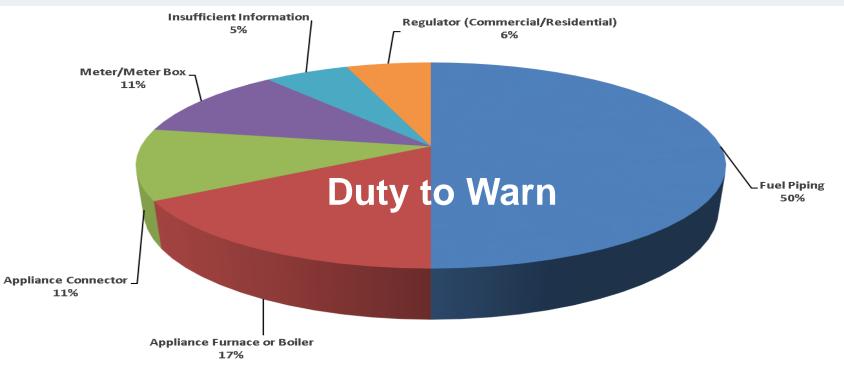


Distribution System – Component Involved

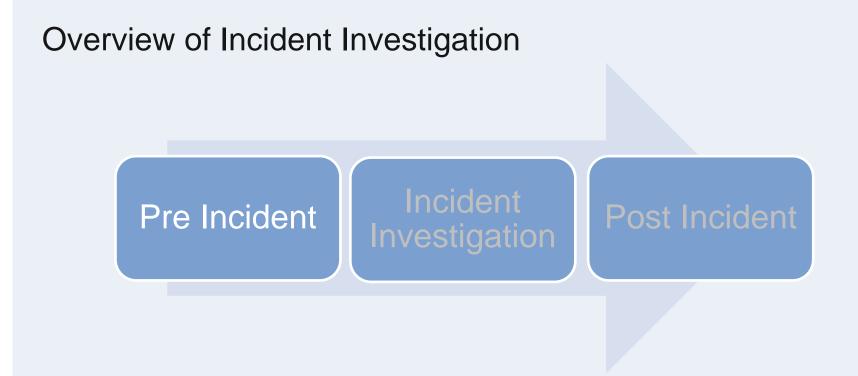




Third Party









#### **Pre Incident**

When Things Are At Their Worst We Must Be At Our Best!

Sensibility<br/>Position<br/>Posture Point of viewLikelihood chance<br/>Solidness ValidityATTITUDE<br/>ATTITUDE<br/>Standpoint<br/>BelievabilityCredibility<br/>StanceTemperament<br/>BelievabilityTemperament<br/>Stance



#### **Pre Incident**

#### **Defendable Odorant Plan**

Employees/Customers
 System
 Equipment
 Documentation





## **Pre Incident**

#### Defendable Odorant Plan – Case Study

- An explosion and fire destroyed a mobile home severely burning the occupants
- The cause of the incident was attributed to natural gas leaking from an open fuel line below the mobile home. The open fuel line was the work of the hired plumber. The plumber, not being viable, left the gas company as the sole defendant.
- The defendant alleged that the gas was not properly odorized not readily detectable.
- Since the gas company performed and documented an odor-level test immediately after the incident, which indicated the odor was readily detectable at levels 3 times greater than minimum federal requirement, it was believed that the allegations would be difficult to prove.
- During the trial the odor meter was introduced as evidence. The flexible tubing that carries the samples to the instrument had a distinct odor of mercaptan....it should have no odor.

#### Company SIR \$1,000,000 + AEGIS \$3,100,000 = \$4,100,000







# Incident Investigation Is The Emergency Over? # 1 Priority Protect Life





## **Incident Investigation**

#### Case Study

A gas leak was called into the gas company with the caller stating "there is a strong odor of gas at the gas meter and its coming into my house."

- A gas company first responder was dispatched three minutes after the company received the leak report and was heading to the scene when the home exploded, fatally injuring one and critically injuring another occupant.
- The first responder from the gas company arrived at the scene approximately 29 minutes following the explosion.
- Additional company personnel were dispatched to the incident scene and began searching for the source of the leaking gas.
- <u>About four hours after the initial explosion two other explosions in quick succession occurred,</u> injuring two firefighters, a gas company employee and damaging several properties.



## **Incident Investigation**

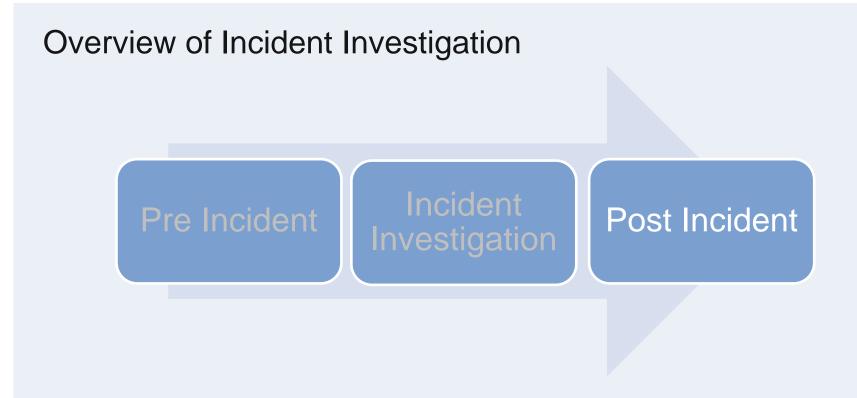
#### Tailboards

- Employee Personal Conduct
- Professional
- ✓ Keep Comments to Minimum Don't Openly Speculate
- Expect Your Picture To Be Taken PPE
- ✓ Dealing With Media
- ✓ Social Media / IPhone
- <u>Company</u>
- ✓ Gate Keeper
- Company Protocols / Procedures / Check List











## **Post Incident**

#### **Company De-briefing**

- Consult with Legal Department
- Debrief with all company employees at the scene as soon as possible.
- Keep questions to the point on what actions where taken by individual
- Are there any qualifications in question?





## **Post Incident**

Time Line	
3:58-4:06	Boring company hits service line
4:06	Company notified of damage
4:13	1 <sup>st</sup> Responder arrives on scene
4:20	3 other employees arrive – supervisor called need equipment
4:41	Equipment arrives and crew begins isolating the leak
4:48	Customers began calling in odorant detection – Company instructions are to leave
5:37	Service line is shut down
5:44	Explosion occurs



## **Overview of Incident Investigation**

#### **Mock Emergencies**

Table Top ExercisesField Drills





#### **Lessons Learned – From Gas Utility Incidents**

# Questions



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