



The Pipeline Safety Pulse

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A message from Aaron Choo



As we embark on FY24, we should take the time to reflect on the Pipeline Safety achievements over last FY23 and build upon that foundation driving continuous improvement within NY Gas Field Operations & Programs. As a team, we strive to achieve excellence through learning from our past, managing our risks, and leaning in on our work methods and standards. To this point, we partner with PSMS and welcome feedback from established controls to ensure we are leveling up on our compliance excellence journey.

In Operations, we are fully committed to a culture of continuous improvement, ensuring pipeline safety is at the forefront of our work. The pipeline safety journey does have its challenges in the face of changing regulations that require all stakeholders to partner. A great example of this would be how we navigated the new NY Operator Qualification (OQ) order as a collaborative implementation team throughout FY23 with strong strategic and tactical planning. We're not finished. Once it is implemented, we will continue to streamline the program's effectiveness by engaging our internal and external stakeholders looking for opportunities to improve in FY24.

With our Plan-Do-Check-Act approach as the foundation for continuous improvement, it's clear we've never been more committed to continue following the API 1173 roadmap and striving for pipeline safety excellence.

Aaron Choo
National Grid
VP GFO/Programs – DNY

Next





Operator Qualification (OQ)



What

Process where an individual is **determined to be qualified** by a natural gas or hazardous liquid pipeline operator **through training and evaluation** of that individual's **knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs)**, to **perform the covered tasks** assigned, and to recognize and react appropriately to **abnormal operating conditions** while performing those tasks.

Why

Intent is two-fold:

1. Ensure a qualified workforce on jurisdictional pipelines, and thereby,
2. Reduce the probability and consequence of pipeline incidents or accidents caused by human error.

It is not intended to be a one-time event, but a process that continues for the working lifetime of an individual.

March 2022 OQ rule revisions

The OQ Rule requires operators to:

- Identify “**covered tasks**” and “**abnormal operating conditions**” that are specific to **operators’ assets**
- **Implement a process** for evaluating personnel
- Develop and follow a **written qualification program**
- **Maintain records** to document compliance
- Ensure their **contractors and vendors** comply with the program requirements

OQ Update

Written plan: Filed on March 15th, effective April 1st

Training: Change in approach for contractors

Evaluation: Performance Evaluations (PE) completed

Span of control: Work Methods and Standards has revised Procedures/Standards to include updated forms

Management of Change (MOC): New MOC process went into effect on April 1st





Hurricane preparedness: Get ready today

Hurricane season begins June 1. Is your family prepared to weather significant storms? The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) urges you to get ready for the worst today, and offers these suggestions to help you prepare:

- Know your risks: Is your area vulnerable to storm surge, flooding from heavy rain, strong winds, tornadoes or rip currents? Are you in an evacuation zone? Does your home have structural weaknesses?
- Before storm season: Develop evacuation and communication plans. Assemble disaster supplies. Get an insurance check-up. Strengthen your home.
- When a storm is forecast to impact your area: Rely on trustworthy information sources (such as the National Weather Service) to determine when to evacuate and when to shelter in place.
- Know what to do before, during and after a storm. According to NOAA, “Nearly half of hurricane fatalities occur after the storm.”

Source and for more information: noaa.gov/hurricane-prep



Spring safety awareness



National Safety Month: June 1–30



June is National Safety Month. Initiated by the National Safety Council (NSC), National Safety Month is “intended to raise awareness about keeping each other safe, from the workplace to any place.” NSC reports that our lifetime odds of dying in a fall are 1 in 98. In 2020, more than 200,000 people in the US died from preventable injuries, most frequently from poisoning (43%), motor vehicles (21%) and falls (21%). Nearly 21 million suffered preventable nonfatal injuries, and 33% of those were from falls. This year’s National Safety Month has four weekly themes that will help you focus on important safety topics at home or work:

- **Week 1:** Emergency Preparedness
- **Week 2:** Slips, Trips and Falls
- **Week 3:** Heat-Related Illness
- **Week 4:** Hazard Recognition

For more information on these safety topics, visit nsc.org/nsm.





Safety awareness



Outdoor summer safety



Forecasters are predicting hotter and wetter weather in New York and Massachusetts this summer. Plan ahead to protect your family during extreme heat events – periods of at least two or three days with temperatures above 90 degrees and high humidity when our bodies work hard to stay at normal temperatures.

On hot humid days, monitor young children, older adults, people with chronic illness and anyone involved in strenuous activity for signs of heat exhaustion, including:

- ✓ Dizziness
- ✓ Weakness
- ✓ Confusion
- ✓ Nausea
- ✓ Muscle cramping
- ✓ Fatigue
- ✓ Heart palpitations

Call 911 and cool down anyone exhibiting signs of life-threatening heat stroke, which include the symptoms above, plus:

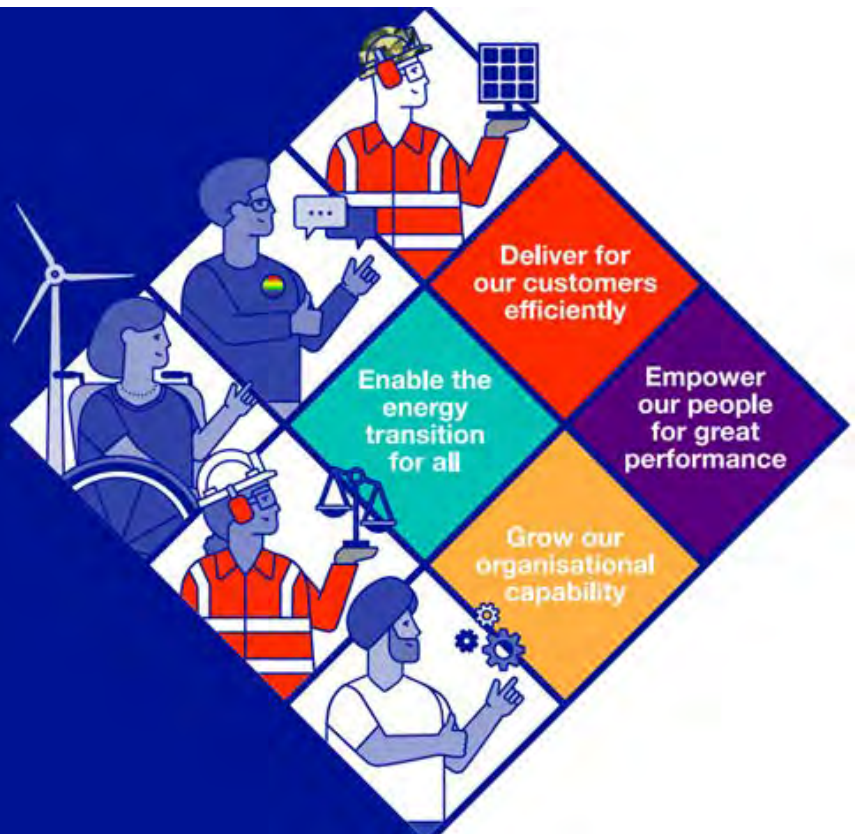
- ✓ Extremely high body temperature (above 103 degrees F)
- ✓ Red, hot and dry skin with no sweat
- ✓ Rapid, strong pulse
- ✓ Unconsciousness

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Pipeline safety spotlight recognition

Company news



The Pulse Spotlight this issue is focused on the **members of the Massachusetts cross-functional project team who designed and implemented an Enhanced Field Sketch Training**. Led by GPS&C, the team developed the training to address the known risk of non-compliance relative to asset mapping record-keeping requirements as mandated by Federal Code 49 CFR § 195.404: “Each operator shall maintain current maps and records of its pipeline systems ... throughout the useful life of the pipe.” Non-compliance also carries Public Safety, Brand Damage and Financial Risk if assets are damaged as a result of inaccurate records.

In implementing the program, the team:

- Conducted 11 in-person training sessions (338 participants) prior to the start of the FY23 Construction Season.
- Developed an all-encompassing training document that provides all relevant instructions for drawing and record-keeping.
- Developed a comprehensive Tip Guide that provides “Rules” for creating Main and Service Cards for field resources to reference while executing work.
- Produced two training videos:
 - 1) Initial contractor training
 - 2) Refresher video for subsequent year Annual Regulatory Training

Project team

Name	Job function	Team role
Elsworth Andrew	Mgr. Gas Construction, Central	SME
Jackie Blum	Instructional Designer	SME
John Carlson	Mgr. GIS Maps & Records	SME
Jonathan Croteau	Snr. Instructor Talent Mgmt. & Development	SME
Carl Fink	Lead Instructor Melville Hub	SME
Ed Marian	Lead Engineer	SME
Gwyn Matthews	Mgr. GFO/CMS Malden	SME
Lien Moorehead	Mgr. Business Compliance	SME
Jamie O'Donnell	Learning Design Manager	SME
Deepak Vishnu	Mgr. Technical Training	SME
Witold Zuschlag	Senior Technical Training Instructor	SME
Chris Frasier	Contractor-Instructor III	Trainer

The work associated with the project embodies all three National Grid Values: Do the Right Thing, Find a Better Way and Make it Happen.

Congratulations to the team and to GPS&C for your outstanding effort!



Every quarter, *The Pulse* will feature an article about an employee or team that you nominate for the Employee Spotlight. Nominate an employee, coworker or team who embodies National Grid values, and we will put them in the spotlight for some well-deserved recognition. Please complete [The Pulse Spotlight nomination form](#), then email the completed form to Lead Communications Specialist Lisa Callahan at lisa.callahan@nationalgrid.com.

