



Pipeline Incident Response for Emergency Responders

Contact Information



Emergency Contact

830-278-6616 (M-F 8AM – 5PM).
After hours and holidays: 830-278-9147.

Non-Emergency Contacts

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www.pipeline.uvaldetx.gov/

About this Course



The City of Uvalde pipeline response course is designed to provide awareness for emergency responders who may respond to an incident involving a City of Uvalde natural gas pipeline release.

Note: This is a general guide, and any further questions can be directed to local staff



About the City of Uvalde



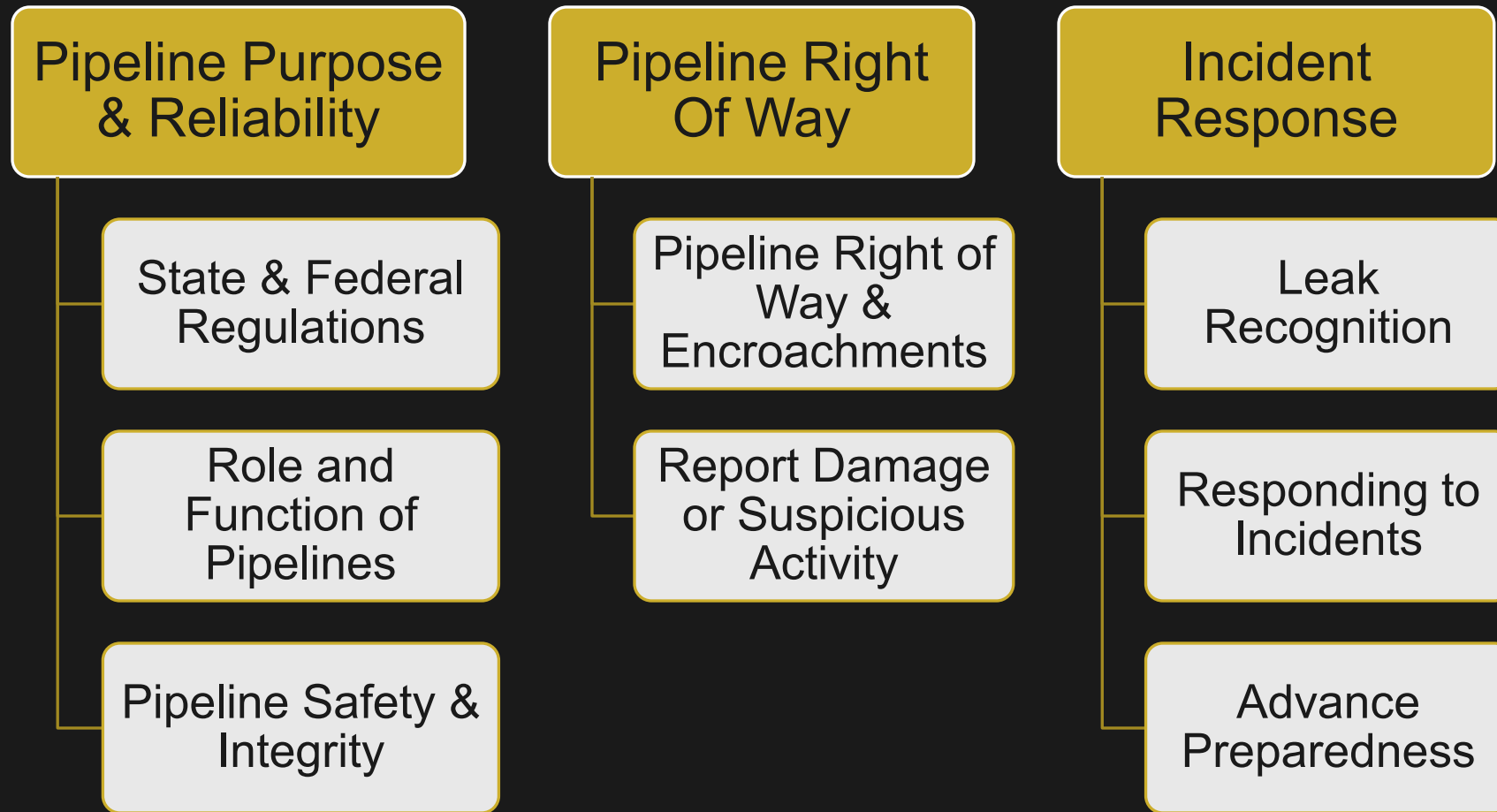
The City of Uvalde is committed to partnering with emergency responders and community leaders to maintain the safe and reliable operation of our pipelines in your community by providing proper training to respond to a pipeline emergency. In the event of an emergency, the City of Uvalde's first priority is to protect the public, followed by protecting property and maintaining service.

Types Of Services

The City of Uvalde operates a natural gas distribution pipeline system.

Overview

Overview



Pipeline Purpose and Reliability

Overview of Pipelines

Objective

1. Identify regulatory agencies for the pipeline industry.
2. Review roles and functions of pipelines.
3. Recognize safety and integrity standards for pipelines.

Federal Regulatory Agency



Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety Administration

US DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) oversees INTERSTATE pipelines

- Pipelines that cross state borders (transmission pipelines)
- Monitor compliance
- Programmatic inspections
- Incident investigation
- Direct dialogue

State Regulatory Agencies



Texas

Railroad Commission of Texas

<https://www.rrc.texas.gov/pipeline-safety/>

Role and Function of Pipelines

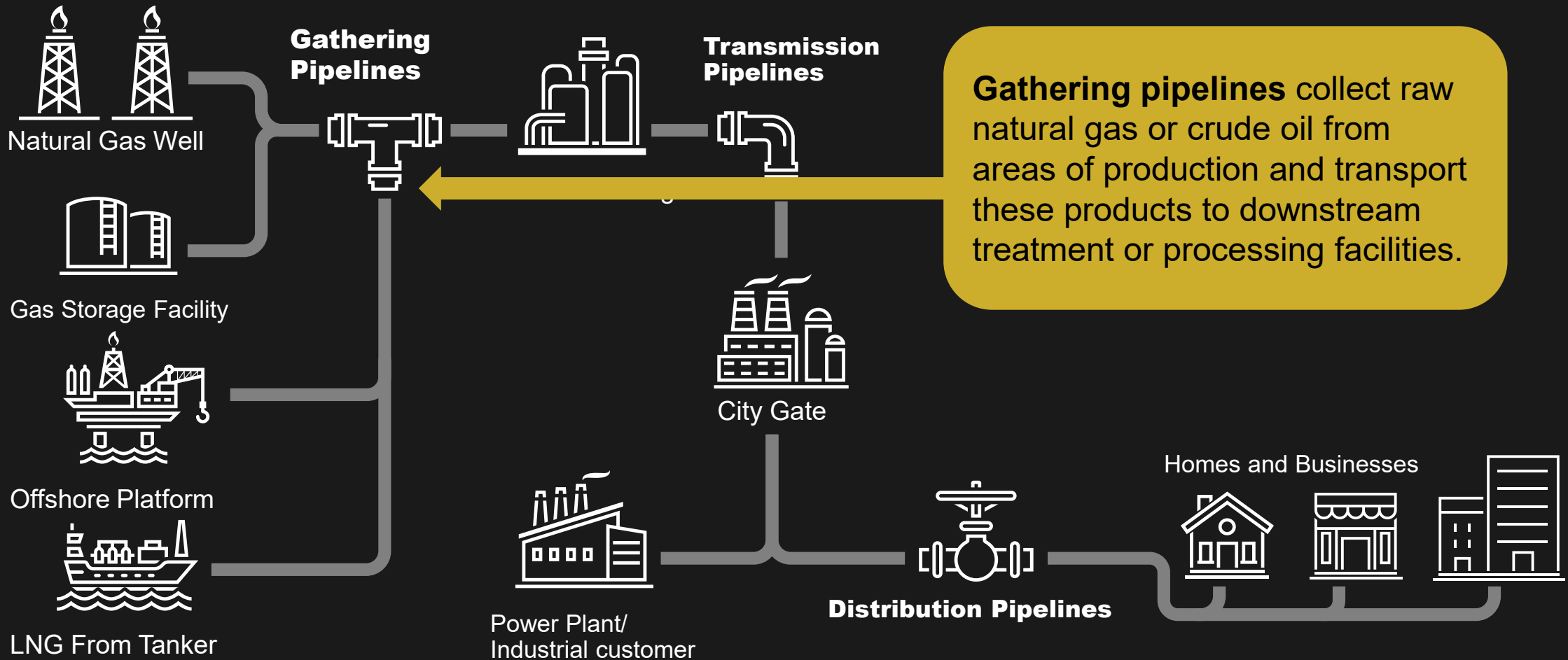


What are
pipelines?

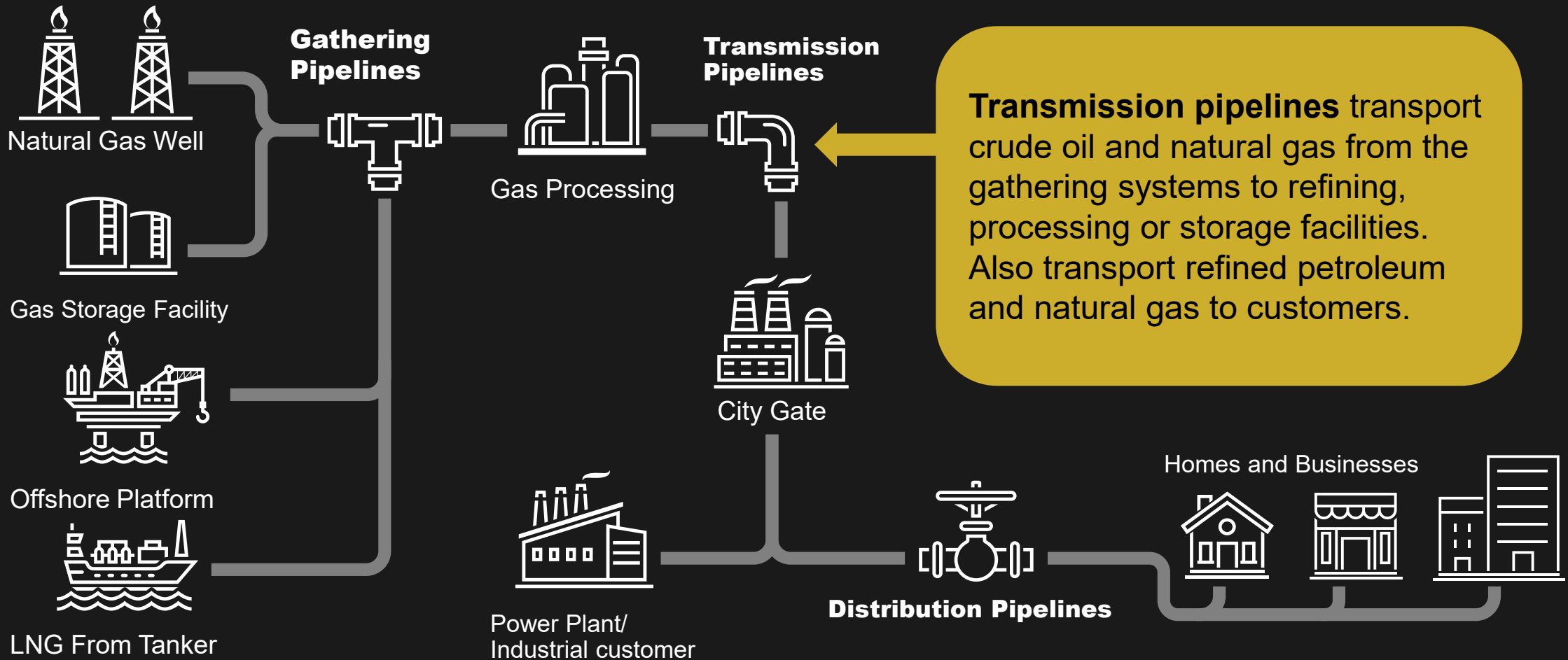
Where are
pipelines?

Why are
pipelines
important?

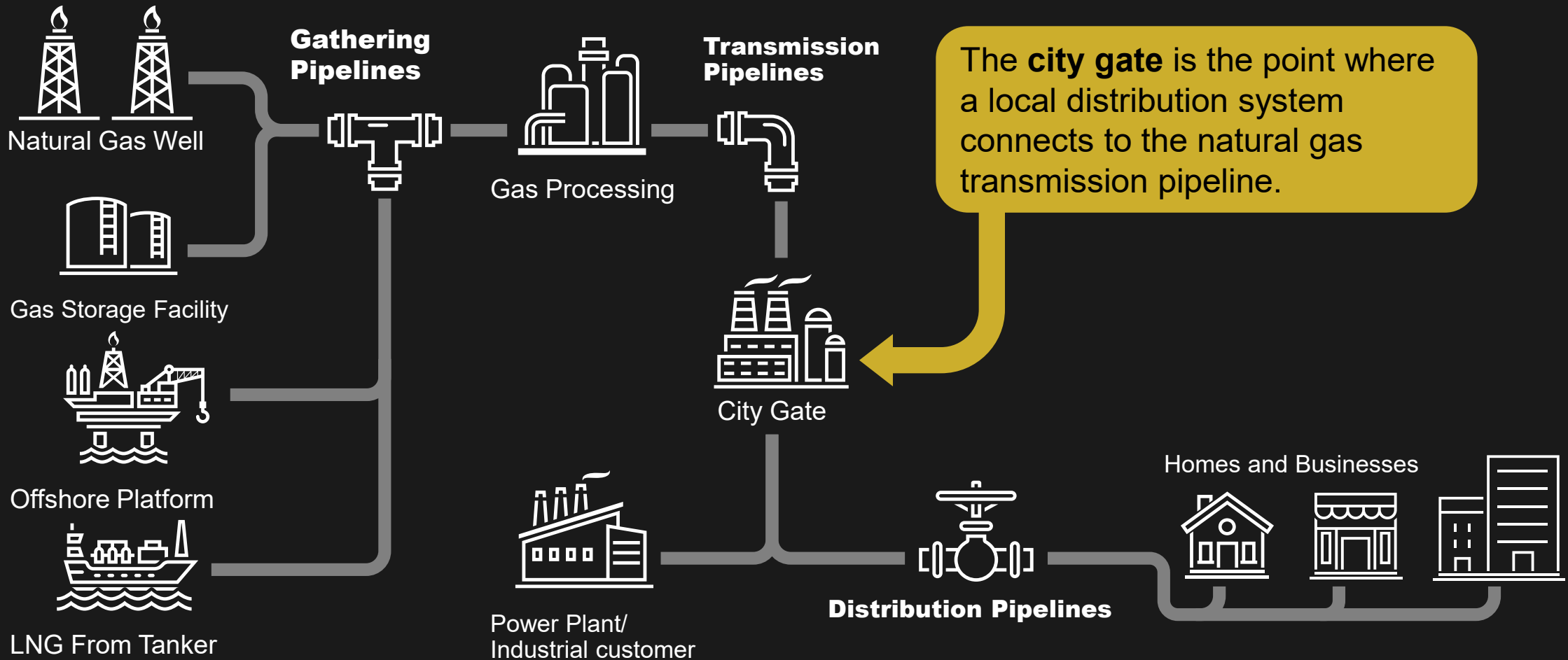
Roles and Functions of Pipelines



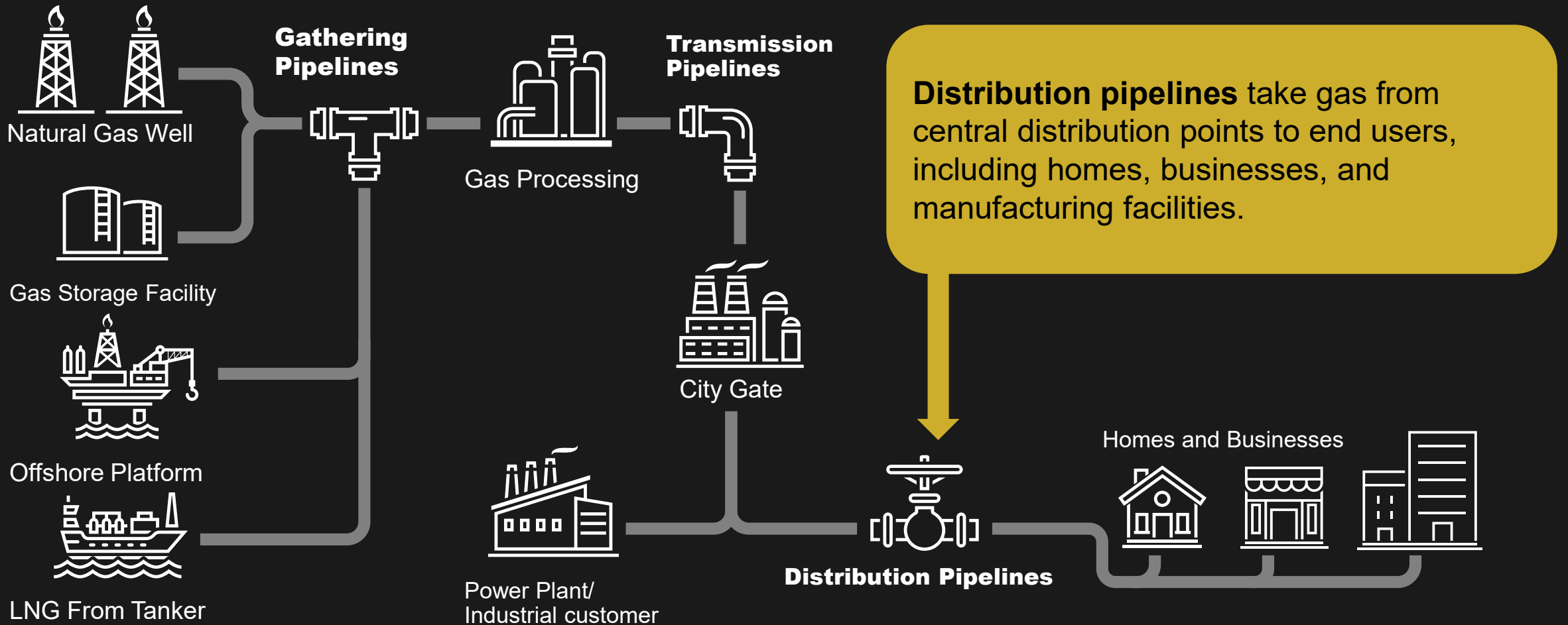
Roles and Functions of Pipelines



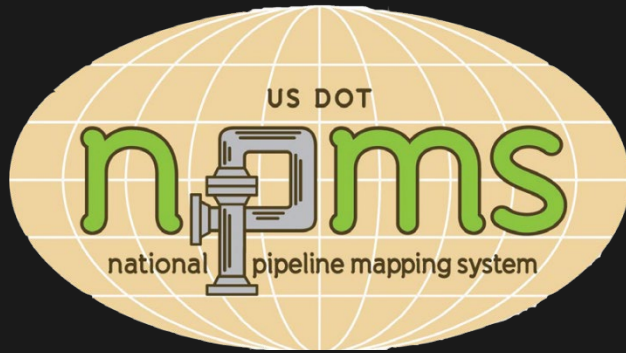
Roles and Functions of Pipelines



Roles and Functions of Pipelines



National Pipeline Mapping System



- Allows public access to view pipeline maps
- Search for pipeline operator contact information in a selected county, state, or zip code.
- Transmission Lines ONLY
- www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov

Pipeline Safety and Integrity

There are several layers of safety to prevent damage to pipelines

- Markers and signs
- Pipeline control centers
- High-consequence areas: (highly populated)
- Ground and aerial patrols
- Internal cleaning and inspections
- Pigging
- Cathodic protection
- Shut-down valves



High Consequence Areas – HCA's

- Populated areas include both high population areas and other populated areas
- Drinking water sources include those supplied by surface water or wells and where a secondary source of water supply is not available.
- Facility occupied by persons who are: confined, of impaired mobility or would be difficult to evacuate



Walking Patrols/Pigging/Cathodic Protection

Walking Patrols:

- Potential leaks
- Unlawful encroachments
- Unsafe excavations

Pigging:

- Clean and inspect their pipelines to ensure safe, proper operation

Cathodic protection:

- Low-voltage current on the pipeline
- Deters corrosion of the pipe



Pipeline Right of Way

Pipeline Right of Way

Objectives

1. Explain pipeline right-of-way guidance.
2. Describe how to report pipeline damage.

Right-of-way & Encroachment

- Land on either side of a pipeline
- Provides access for operators to perform maintenance on pipelines, valves, etc.
- Protects from encroachment
- Restricted from building, planting, storing or traveling
- Creates an Exclusion Zone

Pipeline markers are found within the right-of-way



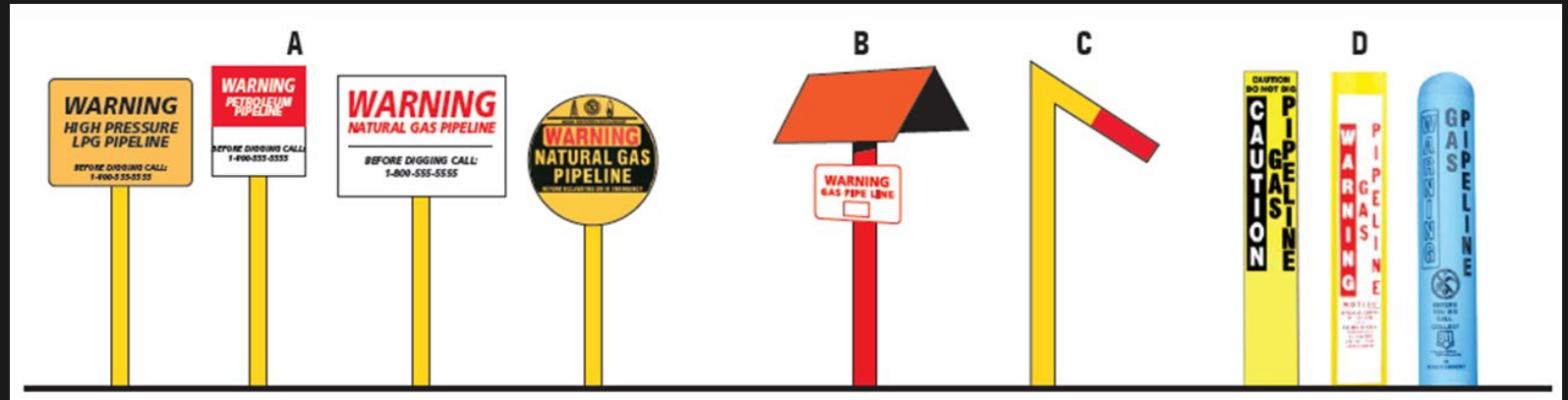
Pipeline Markers

Does Show:

- Product Name
- Company Name
- Emergency Number

Does NOT Show:

- Size or Pressure
- Exact Location
- Depth



It is a federal violation to intentionally damage or remove a pipeline marker

811 Before You Dig

**Call 811 Before You Dig! It's SAFE.
It's FREE. It's the LAW!**

State law requires you to notify Texas811 at least 48 HOURS BEFORE YOU DIG. This is a FREE service.

- For general 811 information, visit:
www.call811.com
- For Texas One-Call rules, visit:
www.texas811.org



**SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS.
EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME.**

Reporting Damage or Suspicious Activity

If there is damage CONTACT 911 IMMEDIATELY!

If you observe suspicious activities, contact your local law enforcement agency.

- Describe specifically what you observed, including:
 - **Who** or **what** you saw;
 - **When** you saw it;
 - **Where** it occurred; and
 - **Why** it's suspicious.

Remember!! “If you see something, say something”

Incident Response

Incident Response

Objectives

1. Recognize a potential pipeline leak.
2. Identify procedures for incident response.
3. Explain mitigation measures for preventing pipeline incidents.

Potential Hazards

Although pipeline incidents are relatively rare, accidents do occur.

- Excavators not calling 811 for proper markings prior to excavation
- Corrosion and Material Defects
- Natural and Environmental Factors
- Operational and Mechanical Errors



Potential Hazards

Cross Bores

A cross bore occurs when the gas line intersects an existing underground utility such as a sewer line.

- Happens when trenchless technology is used.
- Can get cut when cleaning a sewer line.
- Leaking natural gas in the sewer system can create a safety risk.



Leak Identification

- Knowing how to recognize and respond to a possible leak or release is key in pipeline safety.
- A leak or release can be recognized by three senses:
 1. Sight
 2. Sound
 3. Smell



Leak Identification



You may see

- White cloud or fog
- Discolored plants or vegetation
- Flames or vapors near the pipeline
- Water bubbling for no reason



You may hear

- Hissing
- Roaring
- Bubbling

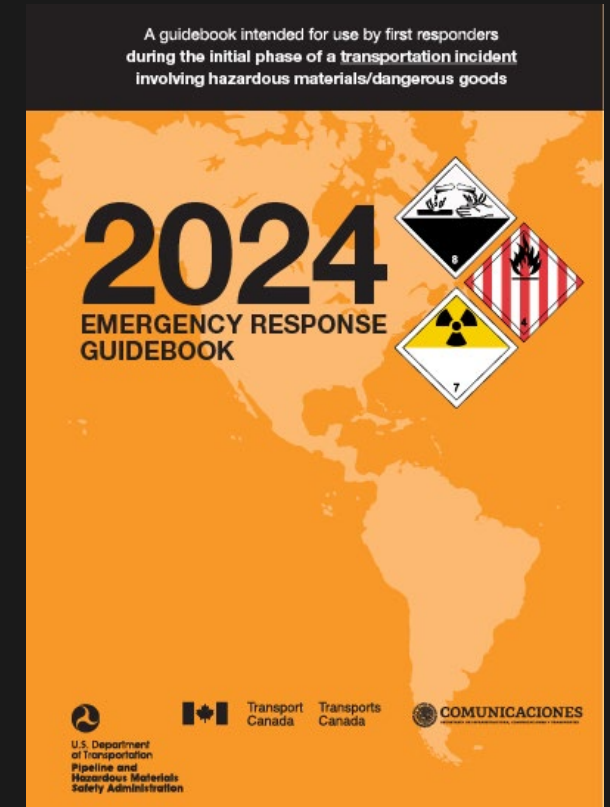


You may smell

- Products can be odorless
- Transmission vs. distribution
- Odorants (mercaptan, etc.)
- Mercaptan can smell like a skunk or rotten egg
- Some smells are dangerous!

Leak Identification

- Knowing the product that is piped through your jurisdiction is important
- Contact local pipeline operators to help identify products
- Product charts can be found in the ERG
- Responders should reference the ERG when responding to a pipeline incident (free download, smartphone app)

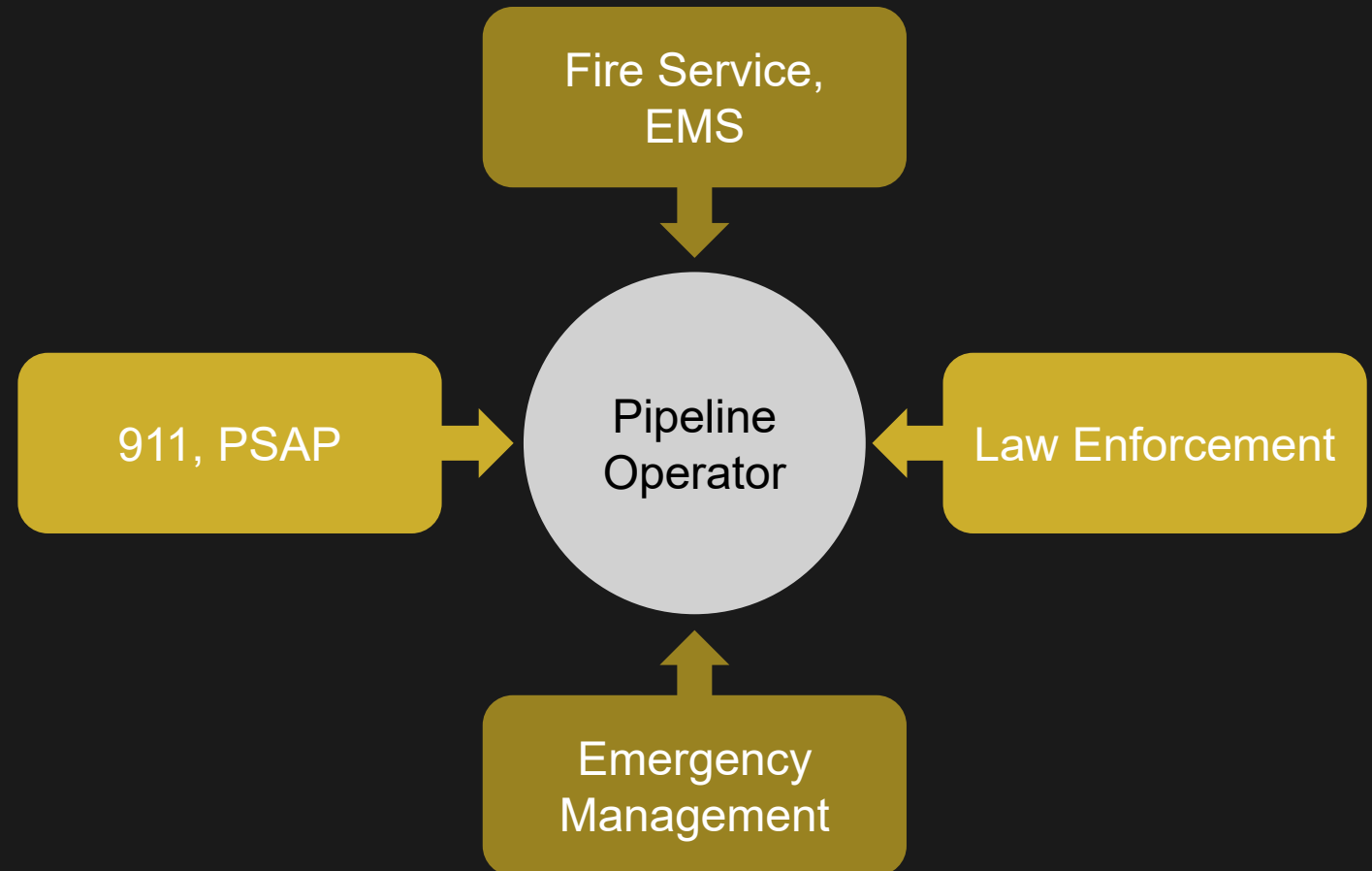


Product Properties

PRODUCT	LEAK TYPE	VAPORS	HEALTH HAZARDS	FIRE HAZARDS
Natural Gas	Gas	Lighter than air	Extremely high concentrations may cause irritation or asphyxiation	Extremely flammable and easily ignited by heat, sparks or flames

Incident Response Procedures

Numerous agencies
will be involved with
pipeline response



Responding to a Pipeline Emergency

The City of Uvalde's main priority during an incident:

- Protect the lives of responders and the public
- Minimize the effects on the environment and surrounding property

The City of Uvalde will immediately respond by:

- Shutting down the affected pipeline
- The City of Uvalde's Field Representatives will be dispatched to verify and isolate the impacted area.

The City of Uvalde will notify:

1. Local Emergency Response Agencies
2. Response Contractors
3. State/Federal Agencies



Pre-Arrival Incident Response Procedures

Pre-arrival information

- Make sure the City of Uvalde is notified immediately at the time of dispatch
- Weather conditions, wind direction
- Response area - location
- Mutual aid - Fire, Police, EMS, Emergency Management



Arrival

Incident Response Procedures

Arrival

- Police may be first on scene
- Consider responder safety
 - Approach uphill and upwind
 - DO NOT drive through product
 - Face rigs outward
 - Eliminate any potential ignition sources
 - Radios could be ignition sources
 - Establish incident command (29 CFR 1910.120)

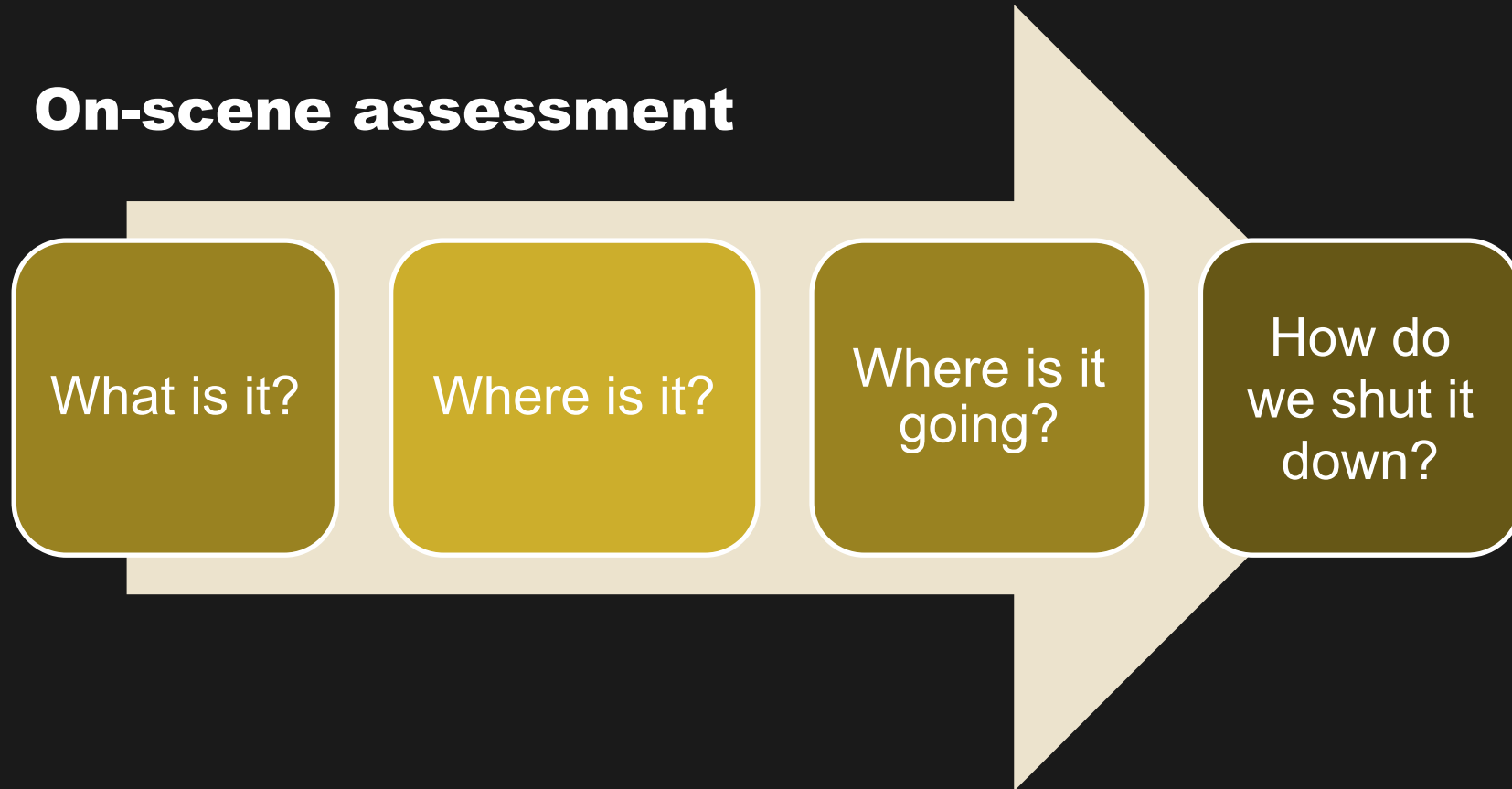
DO NOT!

Fight primary fires

Operate valves

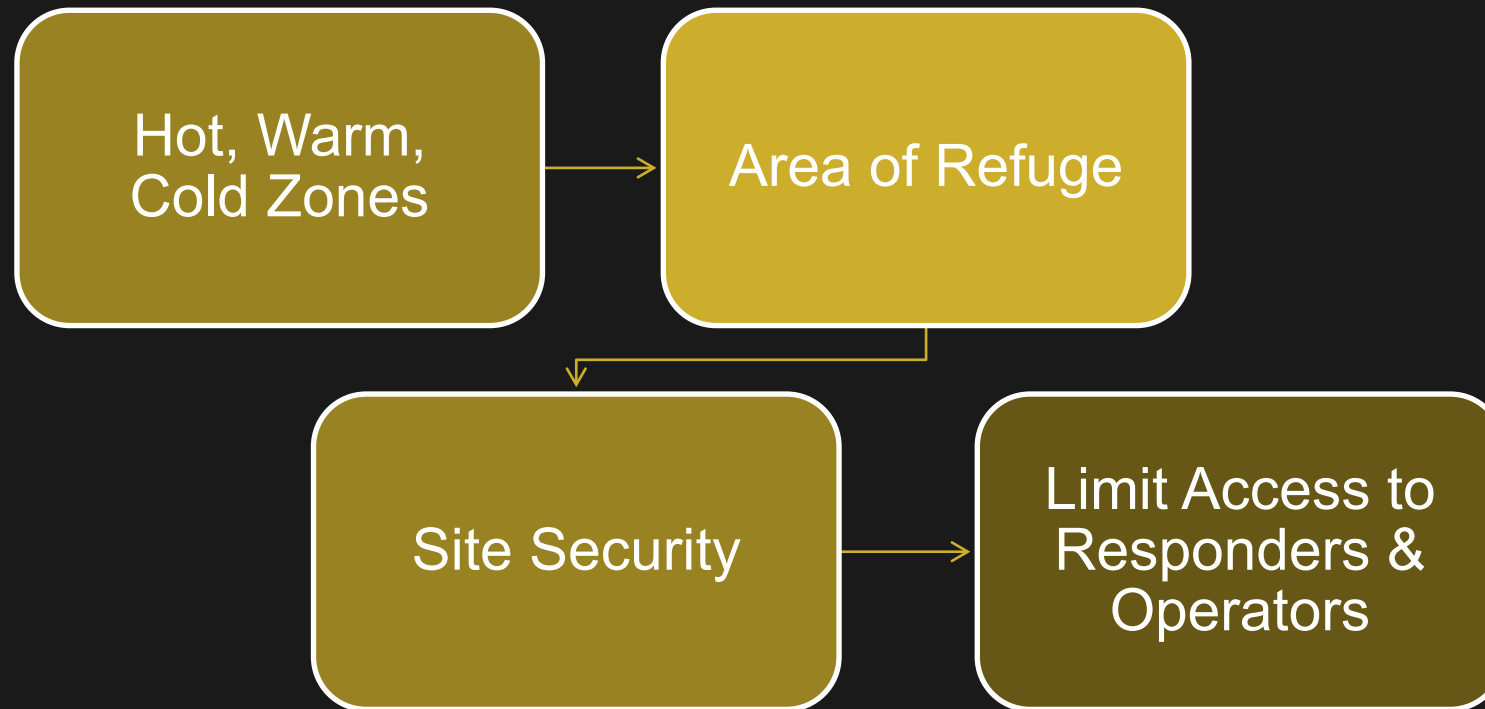
On-Scene Incident Response Procedures

On-scene assessment



On-Scene Incident Response Procedures

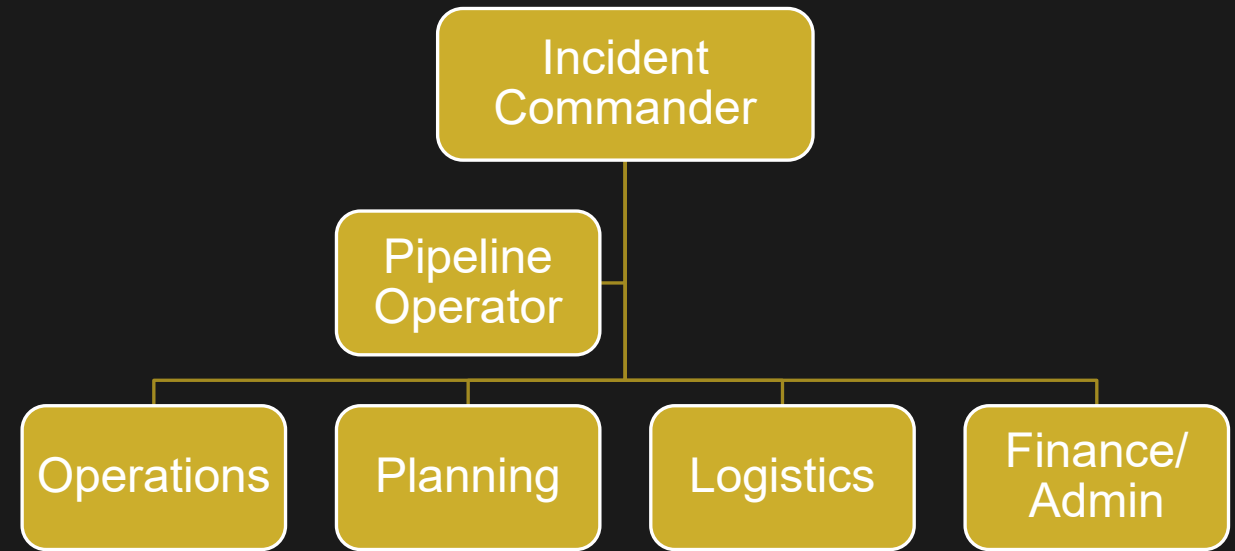
Scene Setup



Incident Response Procedures

Establish unified command

- Ensure pipeline operator has been contacted by 911 PSAP
- The City of Uvalde may provide maps and specific information, ability to remotely shut down valves
- The City of Uvalde personnel are trained and operate in Incident Command System (ICS)
- ICS should be scalable/flexible



Emergency Response Drills and Exercises

The City of Uvalde requires routine emergency response exercises to test the accuracy and effectiveness of Emergency Response Plans.

An exercise is defined as a simulation of an actual emergency; simulation enables employees to learn by practicing their emergency response roles and skills. Exercises also provide the opportunity to learn and to problem solve, avoiding potential issues and concerns during an actual emergency.



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Any Questions

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