



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PIPELINE SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES
RESOLUTION**

**Southern Region
Resolution 2010-01 AC 1**

Action Category 1

**URGING PHMSA TO MAKE AVAILABLE TRAINING FOR PERSONNEL WHO INVESTIGATE
DAMAGES TO NATURAL GAS FACILITIES**

WHEREAS – Under the 2006 PIPES Act, an effective damage prevention program includes enforcement of State damage prevention laws and regulations for all aspects of the damage prevention process, including public education, and the use of civil penalties for violations assessable by the appropriate State authority;

WHEREAS – Damages to natural gas and hazardous liquids pipeline facilities present a danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the general public, emergency responders, and the technicians that respond to repair them;

WHEREAS – The vast majority of America's pipeline network is underground, making pipelines vulnerable to "dig-ins" by excavators;

WHEREAS – Excavation damage is largely preventable, but it remains a leading cause of pipeline incidents involving fatalities, injuries and property damage;

WHEREAS – Appropriate training will allow damage prevention investigators to recognize potentially hazardous conditions and code noncompliance of the pipeline safety regulations thus increasing public safety and the number of pipeline safety eyes in the field; and

WHEREAS – State damage prevention investigators who are not pipeline safety inspectors should be trained in relevant basic subjects including pipeline and hazardous materials safety, accident investigation, and enforcement methods.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That PHMSA be urged to allow personnel who are not pipeline safety inspectors, but are assigned to investigate damages to natural gas and hazardous liquids pipeline facilities, to receive training by PHMSA Training and Qualification, with the appropriate training content being determined by NAPS and PHMSA.

Adopted September 30, 2010 by vote of the Board of Directors