


TR Number	2022-49
Primary	§192.615
Secondary	Appendix G 192-11& 11A, §192.615 GM 1.7 and 2.2
Purpose	Provide criteria for decision-making on when to request an electrical shutdown.
Origin/Rationale	<p>Review of the NTSB investigation into a natural gas-fueled explosion occurred at a single-family residence at 206 Springdale Lane, Millersville, Pennsylvania. The explosion killed one person and injured three others, destroyed the residence, and significantly damaged six neighboring homes, one of which was subsequently condemned.</p> <p>https://www.nts.gov/investigations/Pages/DCA17FP006.aspx</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Accident Brief PAB-1901 - UGI Utilities Natural Gas-Fueled Explosion.pdf</p> </div> <p>Utility crew and other support service workers arrived 40 minutes before the explosion, Power to the area was requested and cutoff 30 minutes after the explosions. Today's homes electrical devices be programed to automatically turn-on or be remotely activated.</p>
Assigned to	DP/ER Task Group

Section 192.615

Notes: ... [Letter Ballot Note: TR 22-07 is also approved for recirculation to letter ballot and is proposing to revise the Notes at this GM location regarding gathering lines. See TR 22-07.]

1 WRITTEN EMERGENCY PROCEDURES (§192.615(a))

(a) ...

...

(e) To ensure the safety of the general public, an operator's written procedures should provide for the following as applicable.

1.1 *Receiving, identifying, and classifying emergencies.*

...

1.7 *Making safe any actual or potential hazard.*

Provisions should be described for identifying, locating, and making safe any actual or potential hazard. These may include the following.

(a) Controlling pedestrian and vehicular traffic in the area.

(b) Eliminating potential sources of ignition.

Note: Supplemental sources of power, such as auxiliary emergency generator or solar panels, might operate when electric service is interrupted, introducing an ignition source.

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- (h) Determining whether there are utilities whose proximity to the pipeline may affect the response.
 - (1) Visually identify the presence of electric utilities, supplemental sources of power (e.g., auxiliary emergency generators, solar panels), and other utilities surrounding the pipeline facility.
 - (2) Evaluate the potential risk associated with the continued operation of the surrounding utilities.
 - (3) Use the local ICS to contact the owner of the surrounding utilities, as necessary, to implement a more effective and coordinated emergency response.
- (i) Requesting the electric utility to shut off electric service in situations such as the following.
 - (1) Where a structure is on fire or an explosion has occurred.
 - (2) Where leaking gas has not been controlled shut down and is migrating towards or into building(s).
 - (3) Where gas is accumulating inside a building or where gas is detected in multiple buildings.
 - (4) Where there is blowing gas and overhead electrical lines could cause ignition.
 - (5) During or after natural disasters (e.g., earthquakes, landslides, floods, tornados) or manmade disasters, such as mine subsidence, that might affect the integrity of gas facilities.
- (j) Coordinating the actions to be taken with fire, police, and other public officials, including such as the following.
 - (1) Search and rescue efforts.
 - (2) Ensuring information pertinent to emergency response is shared in a timely manner.
 - (3) When supplemental sources of power (e.g., auxiliary emergency generators, solar panels) cannot be controlled, consider limiting access to the area by emergency responders until gas has been shut off and ventilation has occurred so that the risk of accidental ignition is reduced.

1.8 Restoration of service.

...

2 ACQUAINT APPROPRIATE OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEES WITH THE PROCEDURES (§192.615(b))

...

2.2 Training of employees.

Appropriate operating and maintenance employees should be trained to ensure that they are knowledgeable of the requirements of the written emergency procedures ...

Those responsible for instruction of operator employees should place special emphasis on the following.

- (a) ...

...

- (g) Response to different types of emergency situations, such as gas escaping inside or outside and gas burning inside or outside. Appropriate actions should include avoiding the use of doorbells or buzzers when responding to possible leaks, evacuation, elimination of ignition sources, gas shutoff, ventilation, and other precautionary measures ([e.g., request for electric shut down](#)).

...

...

3 LIAISON WITH PUBLIC OFFICIALS (§192.615(c)) AND OPERATORS OF FACILITIES IN THE VICINITY OF THE PIPELINE

...

3.4 *Plan with public officials and operators of facilities in the vicinity of the pipeline for mutual assistance.*

- (a) Operator personnel should establish and maintain liaison with appropriate fire, police, and other public officials and operators of facilities in the vicinity of the pipeline to plan how to engage in mutual assistance to minimize hazards to life and property. This planning should include how to work together effectively in an Incident Command System and the means to ensure communication of pertinent information ongoing and timely during an emergency response. Consideration should be given to various situations including the following.

....

- (3) Operation of electric [utilities, supplemental sources of power \(e.g., auxiliary emergency generator, solar panels\)](#), other utilities, or mechanical equipment located in the vicinity of the pipeline may provide sources of ignition for the gas released, may increase burning time or intensity of fires that have already started, or may delay responders who are attempting to make the situation safe.

...

- (b) The gas characteristics and properties, such as pressure, specific gravity, gas odor, and flammability limits, should be provided to local emergency response officials. The implications of these characteristics and properties on emergency response decisions should be thoroughly discussed. In discussions with local emergency response officials, the operator should emphasize the following.
 - (1) The importance of this information to local emergency response personnel arriving before operator personnel.
 - (2) The use of this information in making decisions, such as areas to be evacuated, traffic rerouting, and control of ignition sources [including supplemental sources of power \(e.g., auxiliary emergency generator, solar panels\)](#).
 - (3) The importance of gas detectors in properly responding to an incident.