



APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE

October 29-31, 2019 • Huntsville, Alabama

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29:

- 1:00 PM **OPENING REMARKS**
Alonzo Weaver, Memphis Gas, Light & Water, TN and APGA Operations & Safety Committee Chair
- 1:10 PM **WELCOME TO HUNTSVILLE**
Tommy Battle, Mayor of Huntsville
- 1:45 PM **APGA WELCOME, ASSOCIATION UPDATE & RECOGNITION OF SAFETY CONTEST WINNERS**
Dave Schryver, Executive Vice President and Incoming CEO, American Public Gas Association
- 2:15 PM **PHMSA PERSPECTIVE: PIPELINE SAFETY PRIORITIES FOR 2019 AND BEYOND**
Hear about the Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration's (PHMSA) priorities for 2020 and for Pipeline Safety Reauthorization legislation.
Alan Mayberry, Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)
- 3:00 PM **NETWORKING BREAK & VENDOR EXHIBITS**
- 3:30 PM **APGA'S MUTUAL AID PROGRAM**
Launched in August 2019, APGA's voluntary Mutual Aid Program connects APGA members on the national level in the event of a disaster or emergency situation that requires resources beyond state or regional aid programs. Hear some details of the program and how you can sign-up to be involved.
Simon Cook, American Public Gas Association
- 3:45 PM **THE RESILIENCY OF NATURAL GAS SYSTEMS & THE USE OF MUTUAL AID**
The nation's natural gas distribution system is resilient and reliable. The ability to maintain service in the wake of severe hurricanes in 2018 proved just that. Dale Calhoun from the Florida Natural Gas Association will provide a presentation showing how Florida utilities were able to weather the storm and importance that Mutual Aid programs play during and after incidents.
Dale Calhoun, Florida Natural Gas Association
- 4:45 PM **ADJOURNMENT**
- 5:15 PM **NETWORKING RECEPTION**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30:

- 7:00 AM **COFFEE & VENDOR EXHIBITS**
- 8:00 AM **CONCURRENT SESSIONS BEGIN**

	OPERATIONS & ENGINEERING TRACK:	SAFETY & COMPLIANCE TRACK:
8:00 – 8:45 AM	WORK PACKAGES Ensuring complete and accurate records for your new construction work is critical for pipeline safety, both now and in the future. Hear about best practices in the development of construction work packages & as-building. <i>Bradley Walters, City of Rocky Mount, NC & Dan Sasser, Magnolia River</i>	PIPELINE SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS Published in 2005, API RP 1173: Pipeline Safety Management Systems serves as a framework for continuous improvement on all things related to pipeline safety. The first step towards implementation is often the hardest step. Learn how to get started. <i>Angie Kolar, Colonial Pipeline (Chair of Industry PSMS Team)</i>

	OPERATIONS & ENGINEERING TRACK:	SAFETY & COMPLIANCE TRACK:
8:50 – 9:35 AM	REGULATOR STATION DESIGN & MAINTENANCE Learn about the numerous configurations available to operators for regulator station design and overpressure protection. The presenter will highlight options that have not been traditionally utilized by natural gas distribution systems in the US, but are being focused on due to recent industry events. <i>Jack Hernig, MarieCo</i>	DISTRIBUTION INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT Operators are required to address all threats to their system through DIMP. Due to recent industry events, operators are taking extra care to ensure that the threat of over-pressurization is appropriately considered during risk analysis. Hear from one operator about how they've addressed this threat. <i>Alicia Farag, LocusView</i>
9:35 – 10:05 AM	NETWORKING BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS	
10:05 – 10:35 AM	NEW PIPE MATERIALS, ETC. Use of PA-12 and expanded use of PA-11 were both approved through the publication of PHMSA's Plastic Pipe Rule in December 2018. Hear from one manufacturer about the benefits and limitations of these materials. <i>Doug Weishaar, Evonik</i>	ASSESSING YOUR SAFETY CULTURE How do you know that there is a positive Safety Culture at your system? How do you define "safety"? The Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA) developed a White Paper on how to perform a Safety Culture Survey of employees. Hear about their findings and how you may be able to apply them at your system. <i>Steve Allen, Energy Worldnet</i>
10:40 – 11:10 AM	"EYES ON YOUR SYSTEM" Learn about how your system can increase data acquisition and by adding telemetry throughout your system. <i>Ted Lakeberg, Honeywell</i>	ENGINEERING DESIGN REVIEWS The Northeast Gas Association has developed a PSMS approach for Gas System Engineering Design Review. Learn about this guideline and how you may be able to incorporate its recommendations into your practices. <i>Paul Armstrong, Northeast Gas Association</i>
11:15 – 11:45 AM	CATHODIC PROTECTION Ensuring adequate CP is critical for the integrity of your non-plastic piping systems. Public gas systems are often challenged due to the lack of in-house expertise in this area. Learn from an industry SME about what to watch for and when to ask for help. <i>Chris McKinley, Southern Cathodic Protection Company</i>	PIPELINE EMERGENCY RESPONDER INITIATIVE This initiative is focused on improving communication between emergency responders and pipeline operators. It strengthens relationships among the various stakeholders. With oversight from PHMSA, many states are rolling out their programs. Learn more about the initiative and how your system and community may benefit. <i>Robert Singletary, Georgia PERI</i>
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM	LUNCH	
1:00 – 1:45 PM	METER READING As more systems are implementing Automated Meter Reading (AMR) programs, benefits and challenges are being uncovered. Hear about one APGA member's experience. <i>Allyson Horner, Gibson County Utility District, TN</i>	OPERATOR QUALIFICATION While PHMSA continues to determine how to advance requirements related to OQ, the Distribution Contractors Association and other stakeholders developed the "OQ Integrity Program." Learn about the program and what elements are applicable to public gas systems. <i>Geoff Isbell, Energy Worldnet</i>

	OPERATIONS & ENGINEERING TRACK:	SAFETY & COMPLIANCE TRACK:
1:50 – 2:35 PM	<p>WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT One challenge facing all public gas systems is the recruitment of skilled individuals into technical roles at their system. Hear one innovative way Industrial Training Solutions is attempting to address this challenge. <i>Jason Garland, Industrial Training Services</i></p>	<p>TRACKING & TRACEABILITY With the finalization of PHMSA’s Plastic Pipe Rule in December 2018, the plastic pipe industry now knows what information is expected to be captured in Tracking & Traceability programs. Learn how your system can get ahead of any future regulations requiring full Tracking & Traceability of plastic pipe and components. <i>Alice Burns, ControlPoint</i></p>
2:35 – 3:05 PM	NETWORKING BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS	
3:05 – 3:35 PM	<p>CROSS BORE PREVENTION How are you preventing and mitigating Cross Bores in your system? The Cross Bore Safety Association recently published “Leading Practices for Cross Bore Risk Reduction.” Hear from one of the authors. <i>Mark Bruce, Cross Bore Safety Association</i></p>	<p>MANAGEMENT OF CHANGE Recent industry events have shown that following procedures and standards alone may not be enough to prevent incidents. Another layer of protection that operators should consider is Management of Change. Learn about MOC and how your system can begin implementing a MOC process. <i>Chris Foley, RCP</i></p>
3:40 – 4:10 PM	<p>GIS The use of GIS for gas distribution systems can be powerful. Learn about solutions that are suited for even the smallest of gas systems. <i>Tom Coolidge, ESRI</i></p>	<p>PIPELINE SECURITY The security of the nation’s pipeline system is overseen by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Learn about their Security Guidelines and the elements that public gas systems should be considering. <i>Jim Linn, American Gas Association</i></p>
4:15 – 4:45 PM	<p>THIRD PARTY DAMAGE & LOCATING PLASTIC PIPE Third party excavation damage is commonly the number one threat facing gas distribution systems. The use of plastic pipe has made this even more challenging. Hear about new technologies currently under development at GTI that aid in addressing this threat. <i>Bob Morris, Gas Technology Institute</i></p>	<p>PUBLIC AWARENESS APGA’s Gas Overall Awareness Level (GOAL) Program provides users with a turnkey solution to the required Public Awareness Effectiveness Measurement. Hear from the service provider about how the tool enables compliance, and new enhancements and improvements. <i>Greg Kurtz, BlueOtter Solutions</i></p>

5:15 PM **NETWORKING RECEPTION**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31:

7:00 AM **COFFEE & VENDOR EXHIBITS**

8:00 AM **2019 APGA SAFETY MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER**
Under the topic of “Workforce Development” APGA System Operational Achievement Recognition (SOAR) applicants are asked to share what initiatives they are undertaking to improve their workforce and enhance pipeline safety. Greer CPW highlighted their ongoing efforts to reclassify their job assignments and streamline their workforce. Hear about this initiative and how Greer CPW was able to reduce their emergency response time in the process.
Carl Smith, Greenville Utilities Commission, NC

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31:

- 8:45 AM **2019 SOAR WINNER: JACKSON ENERGY AUTHORITY**
Under the topic of “Employee Safety” APGA System Operational Achievement Recognition (SOAR) applicants are asked to share what activities they are performing to enhance the safety of their employees. Jackson Energy Authority provided numerous examples of actions they are taking to reduce Motor Vehicle Accidents. Hear about this initiative and what JEA has learned during the process.
Jared Smith, Jackson Energy Authority, TN
- 9:05 AM **2019 SOAR WINNER: GREER COMMISSION OF PUBLIC WORKS**
Under the topic of “Workforce Development” APGA System Operational Achievement Recognition (SOAR) applicants are asked to share what initiatives they are undertaking to improve their workforce and enhance pipeline safety. Greer CPW highlighted their ongoing efforts to reclassify their job assignments and streamline their workforce. Hear about this initiative and how Greer CPW was able to reduce their emergency response time in the process.
Rob Rhodes, Greer Commission of Public Works, SC
- 9:30 AM **NETWORKING BREAK**
- 9:45 AM **SIF UPDATE: SIF PRODUCTS & SERVICES**
SHRIMP 3 was released in April. It was the first major update since 2013 and addresses many PHMSA recommendations and user suggestions.
John Erickson, APGA Security & Integrity Foundation
- 10:30 AM **INCIDENT LESSONS LEARNED**
Each incident in our industry brings an opportunity to learn and improve the safety of your system. Hear about some high profile recent incidents in our industry, the root cause of those incidents and how similar incidents can be prevented.
Erin Kurilla, American Public Gas Association
- 11:00 AM **WHAT'S EVERYONE WORRIED ABOUT?**
This interactive roundtable is an opportunity to share your challenges related to the design, construction, operation and maintenance of natural gas distribution systems.
Moderator: Alonzo Weaver, Memphis Gas Light & Water, TN and APGA O&S Committee Chair
- 11:30 AM **CONFERENCE WRAP-UP & ADJOURNMENT**