

MAJOR ACCIDENT HAZARD PIPELINE (MAHP) EMERGENCY PLAN

Regulation 25 of the Pipelines Safety Regulations 1996 requires that Local Authorities prepare emergency plans for pipelines which have the potential to cause a major accident. The Regulations also require pipeline operators to establish emergency procedures for such pipelines.

Pipelines are considered a safe mode of transportation for conveying hazardous substances and are often safer than alternative methods, for example, by road and rail. However, there are occasions when pipeline failure results in the loss of containment or the accidental release of the pipeline's contents. Emergency plans are required to provide an additional safeguard so that, in the unlikely event of an emergency involving a MAHP, protection could be provided to members of the public whose health and safety might be affected.

The objectives of this MAHP Emergency Plan are as follows:

- To reduce the risks to the health and safety of all those affected by an emergency, both immediately and potentially, including members of the public and emergency services personnel.
- To identify those measures needed to contain the effects of the emergency.
- To alert the relevant authorities, organisations and the public who might be at risk.
- To manage the emergency, to minimise the effects on the activities of those not directly affected (e.g. traffic control) to keep people out of the area and to prevent people congregating at the scene, thereby putting themselves at risk.
- To ensure rapid and appropriate restoration to normality for those affected once the emergency is over.